FBIS DAILY REPORT

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PROTECTION PROVIDED FOR THREATENED DEPUTIES

PY232115 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 20 Mar 81 p 4

[Text] Brasilia (O GLOBO)--The Chamber of Deputies and the Justice Ministry will adopt measures to protect Deputies Walber Guimaraes (Popular Party--PP--Parana State) and Helio Deque (Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party--PMDB--Parana State) who have been receiving death threats in retaliation for their performance on the Congressional Investigating Committee [CPI] on corruption. Yesterday the two deputies presented a note to deputy Nelson Marchezan, president of the Chamber of Deputies, requesting protection in the exercising of their office.

The scope of the measures have been been published, because it could "damage their effectiveness," according to Marchezan, who labeled them "practical and objective."

Marchezan also contacted the justice minister, who placed his ministry at Marchezan's disposal to act in the case, and left his intervention at the discretion of the threatened deputies.

The two deputies were at Marchezan's office yesterday afternoon, accompanied by their party leaders. Representing the PP were its President Senator Tancredo Neves and its current leader Deputy Herbert Levy. Representing the PMDB was Odacir Klein, leader in the Chamber of Deputies. On presenting the note and after a brief report by the two deputies, all of them left except for Walber Guimaraes, who stayed to set up in a private conversation with Marchezan the appropriate measures in this case, and on behalf of Helio Duque.

Guimaraes stated that he did not ask for a bodyguard or a personal guard, because he finds them unnecessary "for the time being."

The possibility of tapping the phones at the two deputies home in an attempt to single out those who are threatening was also rejected. This idea had been suggested by Herbert Levy, who remembered that he had experienced a similar problem when he was acting on the CPI on coffee, which was solved through the tapping of his telephone.

The death threats against the two deputies appeared in "repeated and strange coincidences," such as vehicles which seem to follow them, break-ins of the families cars, etc.

The telephone calls went to the extent of setting the date for the number of the threatened persons. The wife of Deputy Duque had received a phone call telling her that her husband would die within 5 days. Guimaraes stated that he was the first target of the threats, but that he is only now making them known, upon learning that Duque has also been receiving the same threats. The creation of the CPI on corruption was proposed by Guimaraes, who is the spokesman.

DAILY SEES GROWING PROBLEMS IN GOVERNMENT

PY201136 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 17 Mar 81 p 3

[By C.C.]

[Excerpts] Last Sunday in Caxias do Sul, after hibernating for almost a month, Vice President Aureliano Chaves went back into action, in keeping with his peculiar political approach. He is, as always, an unconditional supporter of President Joao Figueiredo, but at the same time, he does not avoid making criticisms about what he believes to be wrong or distorted within the government.

As usual, he was speaking for the president, because he used the first person plural when he said: "We are making mistakes at the federal level because we are not listening to those who are truly building this country." In his meeting with Rio Grande do Sul businessmen, after receiving strong complaints about the agricultural, economic and financial policies, he went even farther. He said that, within the current framework of difficulties, there is need for an exchange of information between government and people "to be able to deal with the current challenge." He stressed the need for those who rule to listen to the people and concluded by making this blunt statement: "The worst evil of this country is that an individual who shows that he is incompetent at both municipal and state level becomes a superman when he reaches the federal level."

It is possible that whatever prefabricated and clumsy interpretations the Planalto Palace may want to cook up in an attempt to soften the meaning of the vice president's words will manage to survive, but the truth is that it will be impossible to cover the sun with a sieve. His attacks were aimed against those responsible for the economic, financial and agricultural policies: the supermen who, meanwhile, have been avoiding Rio Grande do Sul state as their namesake avoids kryponite. Just yesterday Senator Paulo Brossaro has been saying that if "Delfim Neto [Minister of Planning] shows up in Rio Grande do Sul, he will be running the risk of shedding some blood..." The complaints of small, medium-sized and large businessmen throughout the state are threatening to explode; and if any merit could be found in Aureliano Chaves trip, it was the fact that he did not postpone any more the release of pent-up feelings, even though he knew quite well what he was going to have to face.

Yesterday, the interior minister held a confidential meeting with the president at which he freely expressed his feelings and opened up his soul. He will not give up, he will not desert and is willing to continue playing his role as a buffer, "but what the hell, things are not up to him, because even though the 32-billion cruzeiros which are about to be allocated could lessen the impact of the disaster, they will not by a long shot prevent a repetition of the situation, nor will they serve as a major attempt at solving the problem."

At the end of its first 2 years, the government is at one of its most bloodless crossroads. It is not a question of crucifying Minister Delfim Neto because, as everyone is acknowledging, his tasks are nearly impossible. The real problem is the structure, or maybe it is a matter of strategy. To insist on a policy aimed exclusively at curbing inflation and improving the balance of payments without a counterpart of huge investments in social benefits would mean, at the very least, turning the next 4 years of Figueiredo's term in office into a festival of demands, crises and opposition. At the very least, we say, because who can guarantee that before the 4 years are up the worst might not come to pass? Nowadays, no single social sector can be found in support of the government and its position. Complaints, lack of understanding and disturbances pour in from all sides. Only a miracle could make the government win the elections next year. Or maybe magic, perhaps in the vein of that which has been applied for the last 17 years, opportunism, forced changes in the rules of the game, arbitrary actions, impositions and bullying. There must be an end of keeping the crisis under control artificially. And if a landslide defeat at the elections and the loss of the majority of power is still a revolutionary impossibility--for the revolutionaries--what is left?

POLITICS OF PRESIDENTIAL SUCCESSION ANALYZED

PY192340 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 18 Mar 81 p 2

[By Evandro Paranagua]

[Text] Certain military circles tuned in to the subtleties of the presidential succession process have supplied us with an interpretation of the level of understanding and cohesion prevailing among the so-called palace power group, which has been questioned for some time now.

According to the observers, who have been following the matter step by step, those who believe a schism exists in this group are as mistaken as those who say that there is none.

This statement does not constitute a paradox but rather reflects keen understanding of a cleverly staged play in full swing: At this point the members of the palace power group believe it advantageous to diversify their procedures in order to strengthen their possibilities of retaining the power structure by having one of them succeed President Figueiredo on 15 March 1985.

Gen Octavio de Aguilar Medeiros is the obvious choice, and at this point he must keep a safe distance between himself and Colbery and Heitor because of the distaste which this pair awakens in most military circles, whose acceptance and support will be fundamental for any presidential candidate. This could never be done through a schism within the team of first-level presidential advisers, but it can be by having General Medeiros act with greater independence toward high military circles, and even toward others which are not so high as far as hierarchy is concerned, thus broadening his circles of support and acceptance in order to protect himself from other potential candidates like Alburquerque Lima, who tried to dispute Medici's appointment, or Euler Bentes, who did the same with Figueiredo.

Thus, a look into the past is always enlightening. It should suffice to remember that Figueiredo himself, then chief of Medici's military household, smoothed over matters to make Geisel's candidacy feasible, by overcoming the resistance the then-president felt toward the man who would be his successor because of Geisel's connections with Golbery.

The current situation is not identical; however, for reasons which we will not analyze now, the sight of a discreet withdrawal by Medeiros from Golbery at least strengthens the former's chances to become president, because it lessens resistance among the military, resistance resulting from the close ties between the potential candidate and the mastermind of the palace power group.

The latter has the sensitive and essential task of staging and channeling pressures, keeping control over conflicts of interest, always within the first of the two options aimed at protecting the power pact and the current priorities, which is the maintenance of the political opening, even though it is frozen and without any hope for further development. The other option, which the president of the nation would like to keep on the shelf as just another possible alternative, is the simply the hardening of the regime, an heroic cure which would be entrusted to the most influential generals to prevent power from falling into the hands of the mobs, as happened in Iran, as a result of an overall and delayed crisis.

Just because this alternative could well never leave the shelf, it is worth taking a look at what Golbery is doing while civilian aspirants are burning themselves out because of what they do or fail to do and the circle of trustworthy persons for both Planalto Palace and the system is rapidly diminishing. There are signs that at this point palace politics have an ambitious project in mind: to bet on Janio Quadros to try and defeat the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party] in Sao Paulo in one single blow and to set up serious political obstacles for Maluf's presidential ambitions. Up to that point, Golbery and Quadros will be fully aware that they are using each other. If the first part of the plan succeeds, the time for parting will come because Quadros is still among those who are not considered trustworthy.

While Golbery is seeking to clear obstacles, Medeiros is trying to strengthen positions with one common objective in mind: preventing the appearance of alternate candidates from military circles. In fact, the two are merely different faces of the same coin.

PAPER TERMS NUCLEP WASTEFUL 'POMPOUS MONUMENT'

PY192016 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 10 Mar 81 p 10

[Editorial: "Factory of Nothing"]

[Excerpts] NUCLEP [NUCLEBRAS Heavy Equipment, Inc] is a pompous monument built at the cost of $230 million, of which 75 percent has been disbursed and the remaining 25 percent has to be paid by next year.

Meanwhile, the plant will become profitable theoretically only in 1984, when and if it begins manufacturing four reactors for a nuclear program which has been steadily dropping behind schedule.

The nuclear equipment factory added nothing to the Brazilian industrial park except wasteful industrial capability.

The fact is that Brazil's nuclear utopia has no hold on reality whatsoever. As for NUCLEP, it is an unrealistic project dreamed up by bureaucrats which has already become a nightmare for the nation.

We could say without fear of being unfair that NUCLEP had to be built in a hurry to spend more time doing nothing. Its creators did not previously evaluate the feasibility of the nuclear program, nor did they ascertain whether this equipment factory was indeed needed. At least without it a great many expenditures could have been avoided. The factory is uselessly ready while the nuclear program is coming down from the level of technocratic delusions of greatness to a considerably more modest reality.

The first order which NUCLEP was supposed to fill was the fourth Brazilian nuclear power-plant, which was going to be installed on the seacoast of Sao Paulo State. Theoretically the order has been placed, but the plant cannot operate on theoretical orders: Instead of a contract, all NUCLEP has is a letter of intent from NUCLEBRAS. The only contract that keeps the Brazilian nuclear equipment factory from idelness is the one involving production of pipes for PETROBRAS' underwater drilling platform.

Undoubtedly, NUCLEBRAS is yet another of the many disastrous projects prompted by a misguided feeling of national greatness. One day it will have to be deactivated because of the high cost of its uselessness, in order to put an end to an outsized source of losses which must be borne by the entire society. There are only two options: either these projects close or Brazil will go bankrupt in the long run.

REMARKS BY ARGENTINE FOREIGN MINISTER-DESIGNATE

PY192253 Paris AFP in Spanish 0451 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Text] Brasilia, 18 Mar (AFP)--Argentine Ambassador Oscar Camilion said here today that the Ronald Reagan government's decision to renew arms sales to Argentina will contribute to strengthening the U.S. Government's image in Buenos Aires and other Latin American countries. Camilion, current ambassador to Brazil, will be the new Argentine foreign minister as of 29 March under the new government presided over by Gen Roberto Viola.

Camilion today carried out a busy schedule in this capital, starting with a luncheon given by the ministers of planning and finance, Antonio Delfim Neto and Ernane Galveas, respectively.

After meeting with Delfim Neto and Galveas, the future Argentine foreign minister indicated that the U.S. Government decision to lift the U.S. embargo on arms sales shows that it was about time for the United States to stop discriminating against Argentina and other Latin American countries.

During the luncheon, Camilion discussed with Delfim Neto and Galveas the possibilities of increasing trade. He emphasized that Brazilian-Argentine trade will soon go from $1.5 billion to $3 billion.

Tonight, Camilion was given a reception by Foreign Minister Ramiro Saraiva Guerreiro, who said that relations between Argentina and Brazil and other Latin American countries are now becoming very important. Saraiva Guerreiro emphasized that the rapprochement between Brazil and Argentina is entering a new and promising stage of real opportunities for harmonizing and reorganizing international positions. In conclusion, Saraiva Guerreiro indicated that Camilion's appointment as Argentine foreign minister will help rapprochement with Latin American countries and eliminate the possibility of conflict between the two largest countries of the continent.

Camilion thanked the Brazilian foreign minister, saying that we are all aware that our relations have reached an unprecedented level and that the rapprochement between Argentina and Brazil is in the best interests of Latin Americans. The Argentine diplomat said that the rapprochement between the two countries is a positive and influential factor in the international scene. He emphasized that this rapprochement is just one of the points in the integration of the continent. In conclusion, after referring to the agreements for the construction of the Brazilian-Paraguayan Itaipu and Argentine-Paraguayan Corpus dams, Camilion said that Roberto Viola's government will continue the policy it has always advocated, that of defending common interests in an environment of mutual trust.

Foresees Political Opening

PY231528 Paris AFP in Spanish 2357 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Excerpt] Brasilia, 19 Mar (AFP)--After his meeting today with Brazilian President Joao Baptista Figueiredo, the Argentine ambassador to Brazil, Oscar Camilion, said that the democratization process in Argentina is irreversible.

Ambassador Camilion went to Planalto Palace (the seat of the Brazilian Government) to say goodbye to the Brazilian president, since next Sunday [29 March] he will assume his duties as foreign minister of the Argentine government to be headed by Gen Roberto Viola.

Camilion noted that General Viola will implement a new political process in Argentina. He added that the political opening process in Argentina will be divided into three stages. The first stage will promote the reorganization of the government. The second stage will promote the reorganization of political organizations through the legalization of political parties, labor unions and organizations representing civilian sectors. [third state not given]

The ambassador also praised the democratization process that has been undertaken in Brazil, but he noted that Argentina will not enforce the same process since "each country must find its own solutions." He noted, nowever, that General Viola will be able to rely on the Brazilian experience as an example and that he may even repeat similar errors.

PARAGUAYAN OPPOSITION SAYS STROESSNER'S HEALTH BAD

PY231504 Paris AFP in Spanish 0253 GMT 21 Mar 81

[Text] Sao Paulo, Brazil, 20 Mar (AFP)--Luis Resk, president of the Paraguayan Christian Democratic Party, stated here today that the political opposition of the country is encouraged by the prospect of a vacancy in the Paraguayan leadership, due to Gen Alfredo Stroessner's poor health conditions.

Resk made these statements on behalf of the National Accord, a sort of political pact which groups the four political parties of the Paraguayan opposition: the Christian Democratic Party, the Colorado Popular Movement, the Febrerista Revolutionary Party and the Authentic Radical Liberal Party.

Several representatives of the aforementioned parties held a meeting in Sao Paulo this week to analyze the current situation in Paraguay. In a communique released to the media today, the National Accord expresses its belief that only an authentic state of law will allow the country to emerge from the serious current situation it is experiencing.

Basing his information on authorized and military sources, Resk asserted that Stroessner's health condition is very poor: He has problems with his right arm, to the point that he can't shake hands, and he also has serious heart problems.

In view of a possible presidential vacancy, Stroessner recently summoned the high-ranking military officers, but none of them made any suggestions on a possible successor. Resk asserted that Romero Pereira, Stroessner's righthand man, cannot become his successor since he is already 96 years old.

The president of the Christian Democratic Party pointed out that the regime is experiencing serious internal disagreements as a result of corruption, drug trafficking and contraband. Resk asserted that he wanted to point out these internal contradictions.

Resk ended by stating that the investigation of Anastasio Somoza's death in Asuncion last September served as an excuse for the regime to search the homes of the members of the opposition.

NIGERIA WANTS ARMS, WEAPONS TECHNOLOGY FROM BRAZIL

AB210950 Paris AFP in English 0725 GMT 21 Mar 81

[Text] Brasilia, 21 Mar (AFP)--Nigeria hopes to buy arms and weapons-manufacturing technology from Brazil, Nigerian Rear Admiral H. Abdullahi said here Friday.

The admiral, heading a Nigerian military mission, made his statement after a meeting with Foreign Minister Ramior Saraiva Guerreiro, who is due to leave tomorrow for Nigeria at the head of a delegation composed of government officials and businessmen.

If Nigeria wants Brazilian weapons, there is no reason why a sale should not go through, Mr Saraiva Guerreiro said.

Although Nigeria shares a frontier with Chad, where Libyan troops use some Brazilian military equipment, Brazil considers Nigeria as a peaceful country, the foreign minister said.

Meanwhile, the Nigerian ambassador here, Timothy Anael Mgbokwere, said Brazil was interested in stepping up its imports of Nigerian oil, but that this would not be possible for the moment.

The ambassador said his country would be pleased if Brazil decided to break off diplomatic relations with South Africa, but Foreign Minister Saraiva Guerreiro said Brasilia did not want a total break in relations with Pretoria.

He noted that the Brazilian Embassy in the South African capital was in the hands of a charge d'affaires.

BRIEFS

PLANE SALES TO BELGIUM--Sao Paulo--The Brazilian Aeronautical Company (EMBRAER) has just delivered two propeller EMB-121 Xingu planes to the Belgian Sabena Airline. The planes acquired by the Belgian company will be used by the Air Ministry's civilian pilot training school for training pilots to handle the Boeing 737's which compose the Sabena fleet. [Rio de Janeiro LATIN AMERICA DAILY POST in English 11 Mar 81 p 7 PY]

SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS OFFICIALS--Senators Luiz Viana Filho and Paulo Brossard were elected chairman and deputy chairman, respectively, of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. [Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 20 Mar 81 PY]

BRAZILIAN-AFRICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE--President Figueiredo has appointed Deputy Adalberto Camargo as president of the African-Brazilian Chamber of Commerce. [Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 20 Mar 81 PY]

GENERAL TERMS REGIME AUTHORITARIAN, PREDEMOCRATIC

PY231728 Paris AFP in Spanish 1637 GMT 22 Mar 81

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 22 Mar (AFP)--In statements published here today, the commander in chief of the Chilean Air Force, Gen Fernando Matthei, said that Chile's Government is clearly authoritarian, notdemocratic, but that it seeks to achieve democracy.

The air force general stated that he definitely rejects the term dictatorship for our government, and that he believes that the current regime is of a predemocratic nature.

The new constitution, which extends President Gen Augusto Pinochet's term in office for another 8 years, takes effect in Chile as of this month. Pinochet was the head of the armed forces when they ousted leftist President Salvador Allende in 1973.

It was recalled that the new constitution, which is of an anticommunist nature and which was approved by two-thirds of the national electorate, provides for eventual popular elections in 1989 if the citizenry rejects the reelection of General Pinochet at that time.

According to General Matthei, Chile, through the clearly military government which was ruled for the past 7 and 1/2 years, is gradually achieving a state of law, a process which will culminate in 8 years in a democracy providing all civil rights.

He added: In the past, as everybody knows, democracy only existed on paper or in the minds of the naive. I believe that people who visit Chile are surprised by the complete individual freedom which prevails in the country--except for those involved in subversion--since this is an authoritarian government. The general pointed out that there is more freedom nowadays than there was during the past when democracy was formal.

He pointed out that in the past there was a much greater state control than there is now. Control was exerted through an economic system, which is where 99 percent of our life decisions take place.

Matthei stated that the fact of going to the polls to choose between two candidates who have been imposed by the leadership is not as important as being able to choose where to send one's children, what to buy and how to live. The chief of the air force and member of the government junta ended by stating that, formally speaking, it was democracy but that in practice it was not so.

COOPERATION AGREEMENTS SIGNED WITH ZAIRE

PY210101 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 20 Mar 81

[Excerpt] The governments of Zaire and Chile this morning signed four important agreements at a ceremony held at the Foreign Ministry with the attendance of Foreign Minister Rene Rojas Galdames and Lengema Dulia Kamakanga Yubassa, deputy commissioner for foreign affairs and international cooperation of Zaire. Rojas Galdames said that the signing of these instruments will institutionalize the cooperation which has already been implemented in the mining and cultural sectors.

The first agreement is a general convention on economic, commercial, scientific, technical, social and cultural cooperation which establishes the guiding principles for cooperation in these areas and which creates a broad Chilean-Zairean joint commission for this purpose.

The governments of Chile and Zaire also signed three special agreements on cooperation in the areas of trade, culture, and science and technology.

PRESIDENT ANNOUNCES BREAK WITH CUBA, AMNESTY BILL

PA240234 Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish 0103 GMT 24 Mar 81

[Speech to the nation by Colombian President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala from Narino Palace--recorded]

[Text] Colombians, I harbor no doubt, just as you surely do not, that throughout the winding republican course of our history subversion has never been composed of so much fury and resistance in its criminal purpose to seize control of the state apparatus as it has been during the administration which I head.

Luckily the government and armed forces of the republic, conscious of their constitutional duties, have not vacillated in applying with firmness and determination and with utmost respect for legal order, the measures necessary to safeguard the democratic institutions and prevent the disruption of public order. These objectives have been achieved in large part.

But it would be naive to suppose that the recent successes achieved by the armed forces in the operations in the south against the dangerous strategy concocted by the 19 April Movement [M-19] signal the total annihilation of subversion.

It is true that it suffered a harsh blow, but it is also true that beyond the control of the authorities, the remnants of this seditious organization still continue to act, as well as other movements which cruelly and seditiously carry out their plans in diverse parts of Colombian geography.

I neither wish in any way to put the country at ease regarding the dangers that surrounds us, nor is it my intention to alarm it unnecessarily because, although the situation offers risks it can improve to the extent that Colombians understand that the defense of republican patrimony with all its social, moral, cultural, and political values is not the exclusive competence of the government or of the armed forces, but the sacred obligation of all Colombians who truly love their fatherland.

The state organizations, political parties, labor organizations, peasants, professionals, students, women, workers, artists, businessmen, industrialists, agricultural sectors, communications media, communal action boards, public workers, clergy; in general all groups have a place to strengthen the legion of volunteers of peace, whose endeavor cannot be conceived of as solely to benefit the government, but must be considered the most treasured possession of the nation.

As chief of state and as a decisive contribution to public peace, I invite my countrymen to renounce corrosive egotism exercised in their activities so that they will not add to the burden of difficulties stemming from subversion, those stemming from labor conflicts or a flood of labor demands. We are at a moment when patriotism must prevail and a resolute stand to strengthen peace, as Dario Echandia [Colombian president 1943-44] once said on a memorable occasion.

The citizens are not asked to organize into militias, they are not asked to offer their lives or their property. They are merely asked to reduce the tone of their conflicts, that they be just in their demands, that they cooperate with their reports to the authorities, and that they believe than an eventual triumph of the forces of subversion represents without a doubt the elimination of all that which we Colombians have labored so patiently to achieve in 150 years of independence.

It would be the regime of terror, the empire of barbarism, the fratricidal classist struggle, the abolition of liberties and economic disorder. No greater evil could fall on Colombia that the triumph of anarchic forces, indifferent to crime and submissive to foreign orders from the country that armed them.

Colombians, with our virtues and defects, constitute an admirable community in which kindness is the distinctive characteristic of the nation. The persons with nefarious purposes and poisoned minds are certainly a small minority. In no way can we permit that, for fear of pointing out the subversives or because of the cowardly tolerance of those who mistakenly think they have won the protection of the bandits, that the path to violence be opened.

Any information is valuable in the struggle to which we are committed. With respect to this, I wish to express appreciation as president of the republic for the useful information which honest peasants of Choco and Narino have supplied to the armed forces to detect, pursue, and capture the subversives, who as far as is known, demonstrated less decisiveness in confronting the army than they usually display when they commit terrorist acts or surprise attacks against the police or defenseless peasants.

We must be worthy Colombians of our time and accept the challenge they have made, not the opposition of the government, but those who oppose the republican and democratic system. We must understand that this is a struggle between those supporting the fatherland and those against it.

I have great confidence in all our social classes and am sure that they will all cooperate, support the battle for Colombia and refuse to condone crime.

The political parties on which the government is based will obviously play an important role in this crucial hour of the republic. I am requesting not only their solidarity, which I know I have without reservations, for the defense of the democratic institutions, but I expect the legislative chambers, because of the importance of their tasks, to strengthen the people's faith in the capability of representative organizations. The assemblies, representing the people's power and working for the state's social services, as the constitution demands, are in a position to strengthen our institutions, to promote change and ensure development with social justice.

I am also firmly convinced that political parties, as essential vehicles of the democratic system, can offer the country appropriate solutions to its needs according to its legal traditions. The Liberal and Conservative Party have before then a great challenge. Fortunately both represent democratic alternatives and both will have to commit their best men and their political leadership so that they can emerge victorious from the battle against anarchy and crime.

I believe that the republic's democratic future can be predicted because the two parties have reached agreements for the selection of their official candidates. As chief of state, I must see this situation with enthusiasm because this will allow the people to become familiar with the names of those from among whom my successor will be chosen.

Since the parties are in agreement on the procedures for the official candidacy of their respective groups, I believe that it would be well for the Colombians to know their candidates. One cannot fight subversion if the parties are held in check and their candidates concealed. On the contrary, they must be brought out in the open so the nation can hear them, analyze their government programs, observe their conduct and finally elect to the presidency the man they best think can assume this overwhelming burden.

It is obvious that peace is closely linked to the government's neutrality. The government cannot, and should not, have an official candidate. Neutrality must be the rule and the code of all government employees, from the most modest janitor the the president himself. Those who do not share this opinion cannot be part of the government.

When I assumed the presidency, the ground in Colombia was still wet with the blood of an innocent and outstanding labor leader--Jose Raquel Mercado. A movement which identified itself as the M-19 assumed responsibility for this crime which was obviously aimed at creating a chasm between the working class and its executioners.

On the same day of my inauguration, I found on my desk a bulletin in which this movement, before the beginning of my term, had placed itself on a war footing against the new administration.

A month later, former minister Rafael Pardo Vuelvas was cowardly murdered in his home. He was an outstanding citizen. It was learned that on that same day the criminals tried to take the lives of others who fortunately escaped their sinister intentions.

A few months later the daring robbery of 5,000 weapons from north canton of Usaqen occurred. Hideouts and people's prisons were built, outstanding businessmen were kidnapped and murdered, banks were robbed, the kidnapping industry was established, all this in the name of alleged peoples' conquests. Nevertheless, Colombians know that none of their conquests has been attained with crime.

The series of kidnappings and terrorist attacks, ambushes, murders of watchmen and murders continued. Later they attacked the Dominican Embassy and seriously endangered the lives of several diplomats and many private citizens.

The government dealt with that serious problem firmly and prudently and this made possible a peaceful solution of the drama.

The kidnappers left for Havana when Castro offered asylum to the assaulters of the embassy. Whatever happened after granting the asylum, the truth is that Cuba lent us a hand for which we thanked them. Later on Cuba granted asylum to the hijackers who tried to interfere with the ceremonies in Santa Marta in which nine presidents rendered homage to the memory of the Liberator. According to existing agreements with Cuba, the Colombian Foreign Ministry requested the extradition of the hijackers, and so far it has been unsuccessful. The answer has been vague and evasive.

Now, with the evidence of the assault on the village of Tado, the capture of a dangerous shipment of arms and the arrest of several members of M-19 who came through the rivers Baudo and Mira, it was learned by the testimony of one of its members that the guerrillas were trained in Cuba and that the arms seized are from the same country. This I consider more than an unfriendly act toward Colombia, a country that during the previous administration resorted to the inter-American system to make great efforts to have the OAS lift the sanctions on Cuba, so that the countries that wished to resume relations with the Cuban Government could do so. I must say that the experience that Colombia has had deplorably proves that Cuba has repeatedly violated its international duties and persists in intervening in the internal affairs of our country, as corroborated by the facts to which I have referred. Colombia, which has relations with all socialist countries and important agreements with many of them, is forced by motives that have nothing to do with the ideology of the Cuban Government, but with its hostile attitude, to suspend as of this moment its relations with the government of Prime Minister Castro for reasons which can only be blamed on that country. Colombian diplomats have been recalled to Bogota and Cuban diplomats have been given a reasonable amount of time to return to their country.

We have been involved in an offensive which has made Central America and the Caribbean its target. Today, however, we see with justified uneasinness and worry that the georgraphic sphere has been widened and we are not able to determine its boundaries, but, realizing that what has occurred in Colombia, should alert our neighbors.

The interventionist action of the Cuban Government represents a big contrast with the fraternal attiude of Ecuador, which, honoring a reciprocal and tradition friendship, refused to give refuge under its clean flag to a group of terrorists who will be given all the guarantees of a fair trial by the Colombian justice system.

I must also reiterate as constitutional commander in chief of the Colombian Armed Forces, that I am proud for the admirable way it has acted. It is nothing new; it goes way back in our history.

In the midst of the incomprehension of demagogues, of the treacherous terrorist attacks and the handicaps in carrying out its peaceful duties, it has carried out a task that in the sober military vocabulary is interpreted as within the line of duty. I can assure the armed forces that it has earned another notch in the people's gratitude.

Inasmuch as Colombia is a democracy, the government I preside over considered it was necessary to resort to political procedures to try to obtain the reconcilation of the Colombian family. The Colombian Government makes a difference between those who have made of kidnapping a lucrative profession which they try to dignify with a political pretext and the beguiled Colombian youths who, encouraged by a false idealism, have fallen into the claws of the entrepreneurs of subversion. The government submitted to Congress an amnesty bill inspired by the noblest objectives to give the members of the various subversive groups who have not committed attrocious crimes a chance to rehabilitate themselves. The law is not a selfish strategy. Instead it should be a real opportunity to save for democracy the rebels who wish to give up their arms and express their discontent in public forums. If those who have accepted the amnesty wish to struggle for power, they can do so by challenging the traditional parties for the support of the people. The government is obliged to give them full guarantees in exercising their citizens rights.

On the other hand, the authorities cannot condone subversion. Their constitutional duty is to suppress it. Today I signed the amnesty bill, which I think is a generous law, even if some of those who will benefit from it have responded to our democratic attitude by sacrificing an innocent life as that of Bitterman, or by trying to seize power through poorly-trained guerrillas, who surely do not know if they are fighting for Cuba or for Colombia. The paths of understanding are open. The amnesty law will be published for the benefit of those who are interested, and I hope they study it with the same disinterested spirit with which it was submitted by the government and approved by Congress. This is the time for those who are up in arms to join the rest of the citizens in serving Colombia and to accept a law which will be the best testimony of the desire for concord of a government which rejects authoritarianism and condemns violence.

Men and women of the guerrillas, I reiterate the invitation to accept the amnesty. The government and the armed forces want to promote concord and prevent bloodshed among Colombians. We offer peace, and it is not weakness but strength which allows us to be serene and humanitarian. It has been our wish to lift the state of siege, but if the offer of amnesty is rejected by the subversive groups, obviously, the government will have to face the situation by resorting to the most drastic means that the constitution permits. Based on the law, we will defend the honor, life and possessions of citizens and we will permit neither the dissolution of democratic institution nor the disturbance of peace. Good night. [applause]

Cuban Ambassador's Reaction

PA240042 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 2330 GMT 23 Mar 81

[Text] Fernando Ravelo, Cuban representative in Colombia, termed the situation serious on learning unofficially of the government's decision to suspend diplomatic relations with Cuba. The Cuban official affirmed that this is a serious situation which might bring serious complications.

At this moment, the ambassador is being received in audience by Foreign Minister Carlos Lemos Simmons, who was assigned by President Turbay to notify him of the government's decision.

Ambassador Fernando Ravelo has confessed that his government sympathizes with all revolutionary movements of Latin America. The Cuban official announced his imminent departure, but did not make further statements until such time he is notified officially by the Colombian foreign minister.

He added that he regrets the decision because of the good things that have been accomplished in the past few years.

The decision to break diplomatic relations came in the wake of the charge that the Cuban Government had trained the guerrillas who staged the recent attack in the southern part of the country.

ANTIGUERRILLA PLANS DRAFTED WITH ECUADOR

PA240203 Paris AFP in Spanish 1945 GMT 23 Mar 81

[Text] Bogota, 23 Mar (AFP)--Military commands of Colombia and Ecuador met today in the Colombian region of Tumaco, Narino Department, to draft antiguerrilla plans, according to radio reports received here.

The names of the officers present at the 5-hour-long meeting were not disclosed.

According to reports, the participants for Ecuador affirmed that approximately 30 members of the Colombian guerrilla 19 April Movement are encircled in the vicinity of the Ecuadorean township of San Miguel.

Those guerrillas, it was stated, participated in a recent occupation of Mocoa, capital of the region of Putumayo on the Ecuadorean border.

SUSPECT IN BITTERMAN MURDER REPORTEDLY ARRESTED

PA221544 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1452 GMT 22 Mar 81

[Text] Villavicencio, Colombia, 22 Mar (EFE)--Reliable sources reported in Villavicencio today that the presumed killer of U.S. citizen Chester Allen Bitterman, an official of the Summer Institute of Linguistics, was arrested by army troops.

The sources added that the suspect is Ruben Narvaez, a schoolteacher from the Arauca region of the border with Venezuela.

Narvaez was presumably the actual killer of Bitterman 2 weeks ago, which was attributed to the 19 April Movement (M-19).

The U.S. linguist was "executed" by that subversive organization after the ILV refused to leave the country. The institution had been accused by the M-19 of espionage and violation of the national sovereignty.

Reliable military sources said that the presumed activist has been taken to a military garrison in the eastern part of the country.

OAS HUMAN RIGHTS TEAM MAY TALK WITH M-19 LEADERS

PA201521 Bogota Radio Sutatenza Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Mar 81

[Text] Bogota--The Inter-American Human Rights Commission of the OAS has left the door open for talks during the next few weeks with Carlos Toledo Plata and Rosemberg Pabon Pabon, the leaders of the 19 April Movement [M-19] who were arrested during guerrilla operations on the Colombian-Eucadorean border.

Edmundo Vargas Carreno, secretary general of the OAS Human Rights Commission, said he has not ruled out the possibility that his group will meet, upon request from the M-19, with the two guerrilla leaders being held at a naval base in Tumaco, Valle del Cauca Department, even though the commission has already completed its work of watching the development of the court-martial of other M-19 leaders.

OFFICIALS VIEW SALE OF ISRAELI PLANES TO ECUADOR

PY231624 Lima Radio America in Spanish 1130 GMT 23 Mar 81

[Excerpts] Press reports on Israel's sale of fighter planes to Ecuador have elicited remarks condemning this sale, contending that it will touch off an arms race in Latin America. Radio America heard statements by Lt Gen Luis Arias Graziani, commander in chief of the Peruvian Armed Forces, and Deputy (Miguel Angel Mufarech).

General Arias Graziani said that he had no official confirmation about the sale and that at a recent meeting with the Israeli ambassador in Lima he was told nothing about the transaction.

Commenting on the sale, Deputy (Miguel Angel Mufarech) said that if the Ecuadoreans continue to further the arms race, Peru should by no means discontinue its arms purchases.

[Begin (Mufarech) recording] Reading the newspaper EL COMERCIO, I was surprised to learn that Israel would sell Kfir fighters to Ecuador--a report which has been confirmed by EFE. In view of this, I must state my concern over the attitude of the Israeli Government. I believe the armed forces, the members of the joint command, should meet with the members of the joint congressional committee, and of course with the president of the republic. By no means should Peru discontinue the purchase of weapons. Instead, we should increase our purchases and try to obtain even more sophisticated weapons than the ones we have now. With regard to Chile, we have a position of balance or perhaps of slight superiority from the military standpoint. Although we are far superior to Ecuador, we cannot discontinue our arms purchases, because Ecuador has begun to accelerate its purchases of extremely sophisticated equipment such as the Kfir fighters. [end recording]

GOVERNMENT SUMMONS HOME ENVOY TO ECUADOR

PY231637 Lima Radio America in Spanish 1130 GMT 23 Mar 81

[Excerpt] Jose Carlos Mariategui, the Peruvian ambassador to Ecuador, has been summoned by his government to report on his activities in Quito.

Mariategui, who has excelled in his functions at the Peruvian Embassy in Quito, yesterday arrived at the international airport and will meet with Foreign Minister Javier Arias Stella. He said that many Peruvian citizens who sought refuge at the embassy were assisted and sent to Lima.

M-19 MEMBER ARRIVES FROM COLOMBIA SEEKING ASYLUM

PY220224 Paris AFP in Spanish 0045 GMT 23 Mar 81

[Text] Lima, 22 Mar (AFP)--A government source stated here today that a member of the Colombia guerrilla group M-19, Segundo Acosta Rivero, has arrived in this capital as a refugee.

Acosta, 24, a printer, sought asylum in the Peruvian Embassy in Bogota, where he stayed for several days until the Colombian authorities granted him a safe-conduct.

On arriving last night at the local airport, he came under control of state security agents and was not allowed to talk to the press. Moreover, authorized sources [words indistinct] that a person who has sought asylum is not under arrest and that he enjoys complete freedom.

LOPEZ PORTILLO AGREES TO SUMMITS WITH U.S., CANADA

FL202345 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2329 GMT 20 Mar 81

[Text] Mexico City, 20 Mar (NOTIMEX)--Mexican Ambassador to Canada Augustin Barrios Gomez has announced that President Jose Lopez Portillo has agreed to meet periodically with the chiefs of state of the United States and Canada.

The diplomat made the announcement following an audience which the Mexican president granted him this afternoon at the Los Pinos official residence in which Barrios Gomez informed the president about Ronald Reagan's meeting with Canadian Prime Minister Pierre-Elliot Trudeau.

Barrios Gomez said the Canadian prime minister had contacted President Lopez Portillo to consult him on a proposal to the U.S. President for a summit meeting of the three heads of state. The ambassador said President Lopez Portillo was in agreement with the idea but that a date has not been established because of forthcoming international conferences to be held in coming months.

Augustin Barrios Gomez also said that during Ronald Reagan's meeting with Trudeau, the United States expressed its willingness to maintain a good foreign policy toward its neighbors--Canada and Mexico.

The ambassador said Mexican exports to Canada over the past 8 months have increased 53 percent and that they can be increased as much as possible depending on Mexican production.

He reported that the heads of state of Japan, Italy, United States, Great Britain, France, Germany and Canada will meet in Ottawa in July.

LOPEZ PORTILLO ON INTERVENTION, EL SALVADOR

PA212322 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1715 GMT 21 Mar 81

[Report from Mexico by satellite--recorded]

[Text] Mexican President Jose Lopez Portillo said today that Mexico does not want problems with the United States. In an interview granted to a U.S. television network and broadcast today in both Mexico and the United States, the president said Mexico is not an arrogant nation bent on having trouble with the powerful countries:

[Begin recording] I would like, if I get the chance, for the American people to know that Mexico is not a warlike nation, that it is not arrogantly opposing the acts of the U.S. authorities; that we do not believe in the principle of force but in the force of principles. And in this we are tenacious but not hostile, and naturally we want no problems with our very powerful neighbors. [end recording]

President Lopez Portillo replied at length to seven questions put to him, all in connection with interventionism and the Salvadoran situation.

First he said Mexico does not believe in military solutions; that it condemns all types of intervention wherever it may come from, because, said the Mexican president, force does not give anyone the right to intervene, nor is it being weak to lack rights.

[Begin recording] And I think all nations, including the powerful ones, should be in a condition to place themselves on the other side, on the other side of the fence. Would they like to be treated like they treat others? Would they like intervention when they have domestic problems? [end recording]

President Lopez Portillo considered that this problem, the problem of intervention, will not be solved until it is clearly outlined, because it is a problem of will and not of time, he said.

In the interview, which did not last more than 15 minutes, the Mexican president criticized what is happening in Central America in general and in El Salvador in particular: [Begin recording] The problem is not between El Salvador and the United States; the problem is between the United States and the Soviet Union. It so happens that because of these events the Central American and Caribbean area is becoming the border between these two powerful countries. [end recording]

In another part of the interview, President Lopez Portillo said nobody should sell El Salvador weapons. I understand that if one party provides them so will the other, and this is the part that disturbs me most, said the president.

He was also asked if he, as president of Mexico, sees any immediate solution to the Salvadoran problem: [Begin recording] First it is difficult because this is a very deep social conflict. They are having genuine class struggle, like Mexico had at the beginning of the century. But I think there are--that at least efforts should be made to solve them through another path, so the long path of blood can be shortened. [end recording]

Concluding, President Lopez Portillo said intervention is a grave threat to international law and that Mexico believes in the force of right to resolve issues of coexistence.

This has been Guillermo Ortega Ruiz, reporting directly from Los Pinos [presidential residence] for "24 hours."

PRESIDENT RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM PERUVIAN PRESIDENT

FL210241 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0134 GMT 21 Mar 81

[By Enrique Alvarez Manilla]

[Excerpts] Mexico City, 20 Mar (NOTIMEX)--The Peruvian Government has sent a message to President Jose Lopez Portillo reaffirming it's permanent position in defense of peace, people's self-determination, human rights and respect for treaties. It also expresses regrets over the incidents that occurred on the Peruvian-Ecuadorean border in January.

Armando Villanueva del Campo, secretary general of Peru's American Popular Revolutionary Alliance Party, reported the aforementioned at a press conference held after the audience President Lopez Portillo granted him at the Los Pinos official residence this afternoon.

Villanueva del Campo said he brought a message from Peruvian President Fernando Belaunde Terry for the Mexican president that included the painful incidents, already resolved, that occurred with Ecuador in January.

Villanueva del Campo, who was a candidate for the presidency of the Republic of Peru in the last elections, said he continues to be in the opposition but that he cooperates with his government as demonstrated by the mission assigned to him by President Belaunde Terry of delivering the message to Lopez Portillo.

BELIZE ALSO TO BENEFIT IN PEMEX OIL AGREEMENT

PA191306 Mexico City International Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Excerpt] As all of the countries of the San Jose, Costa Rica agreement on the supply of oil, Belize will also receive the benefits of the agreement, said the director of the Mexican Petroleum Enterprise [PEMEX] shortly before the arrival of Panamanian President Aristides Royo in Mexico City.

COSTA RICA

MINISTER SAYS NO ARMS TRAFFIC TO EL SALVADOR

PA240411 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 24 Mar 81

[Text] Public Security Minister Arnulfo Carmona Benavides today said it is no secret that friendly nations loaned weapons to Costa Rica because the country was threatened. Those weapons, however, are properly registered by the Public Security Ministry and the national comptroller's office, he added.

To say now that the government helped the Sandinist revolution is mere candor, and it rather appears to be a reply for having deprived Alvaro Sanchez [not further identified] of his work, the minister emphasized.

There is no evidence of any arms traffic to El Salvador from Costa Rica, the public security minister continued and added that a strict vigilance is maintained in all national airports and any other place where the supposed arms traffickers could operate.

Carmona Benavides declared that not a single weapon or ammunition has be taken out of the nation's munition depot. He added that the Judicial Investigation Organization, OIJ, may have good indications, but nothing else.

Meanwhile, OIJ officials claim they have evidence, which cannot be revealed, all of which has created a vague atmosphere with regard to the two terrorist acts that left five people injured and much material damage. The OIJ has collected much information and already discovered the component of the explosives, but it is not possible yet to identify the terrorists, a member of the OIJ said.

In this respect, Public Security Minister Carmona Benavides said his office knows nothing of the terrorists; that every possible effort to obtain information has been made to no avail. It is difficult to find the terrorists, the minister said, because they act according to carefully laid out plans and they take special care to avoid being detected.

Carazo Condemnation

PA240358 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 24 Mar 81

[Text] President Rodrigo Carazo said in a statement today that he has always condemned arms trafficking.

Concerning the supposed arms traffic benefiting particular persons, he added, I have always strongly condemned these acts. Therefore, I again ask the plaintiff to submit the pertinent evidence to safeguard his own dignity as Costa Rican and to act as a man.

Any ruler who respects his people chooses morally honest officials, but he cannot guarantee a priori that these officials will not incur in incorrect acts privately, Carazo noted.

Further on, President Carazo pointed out that the filing of specific charges has been confused with gossip and slander which some people enjoy using to discredit others. Nobody can say, however, that a thorough investigation has not been conducted.

There are individuals who engage in slander and lying professionally, he added, and these have no right to complain in the case charges are filed against them.

FOREIGNERS EXPELLED IN PROBE OF TERRORIST ATTACKS

PA231708 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0030 GMT 22 Mar 81

[Text] San Jose, 21 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--Spokesmen for the Costa Rican security corps said today that two Montonero leaders, Argentines Carlos Villalba and Raul Cuestas, are journalism professors at the University of Costa Rica.

The judicial police discovered that they are Montoneros while searching for the terrorists who perpetrated Tuesday's attacks.

The first attack was against a U.S. Embassy vehicle in which three U.S. citizens and a Costa Rican were traveling. All the vehicle occupants and a passerby were injured. The vehicle was seriously damaged.

The second attack, staged 1 hour later, was aimed at the Honduran Embassy, which is located 200 meters from ACAN-EFE offices. One woman was injured.

The names of the Montoneros, described by the Public Security Ministry as "leaders," are Carlos Villalba and Raul Cuestas. They are currently in Mexico.

The authorities did not say what consequences may be in store for them for being Montoneros and said, on the contrary, that they are awaiting Villalba's and Cuestas' return to discuss their case.

Immigration officials have begun deporting undocumented foreigners as part of an operation "to clear the field" and avoid overextending the investigators' efforts.

A first group of foreigners of various nationalities was sent today to Managua, where they have been told they are welcome.

An additional group of 25 with identification papers but no known occupation who arrived in the country as political adventurers will be expelled in the next few hours, the public security spokesmen said.

Only one of those injured is still in serious condition 4 days after the attack against the U.S. Embassy personnel. For this reason, he was sent to a hospital in the Panama Canal area yesterday. He is Sgt Steve Garcia, who almost lost both legs from the fractures and injuries he suffered in the explosion. Yesterday, a U.S. Hercules plane picked him up at Santamaria Airport and took him to the Panama Canal area.

Authorities have blamed foreigners for the terrorist acts and mentioned a band of five men and one women as suspects in the attack against the U.S. citizens. They have no clues yet as to the whereabouts of the alleged terrorists.

RIGHTS GROUP PROTESTS REPRESSION AGAINST REFUGEES

PA221527 San Jose Cadena Internacional de Solidaridad in Spanish 0530 GMT 22 Mar 81

[Via Managua Radio Sandino]

[Text] New repressive actions against Salvadoran refugees in Costa Rica have been reported. The Commission for the Defense of Human Rights in Central America has charged that in the past few days in Costa Rica there have been a number of police actions that have intensified the intimidation of Salvadorans who have fled the terror carried out by the military-Christian Democratic regime.

The commission indicated that a few days ago, members of the crime prevention unit raided the houses of a large number of refugees who are in Costa Rica under the legal protection of the UN High Commissioner.

The security forces confiscated various materials and arrested three Salvadorans living in a house. The commission charged that Luis Alonso Posada, who tried to intercede in behalf of these people, was mistreated.

Despite the fact thtat there were no charges against them, the police refused to release those arrested. In view of these actions, the Commission for the Defense of Human Rights in Central America expressed to Costa Rican President Rodrigo Carazo its demand that those responsible for these repressive actions be punished. It also denounced the abuse committed against Posada, the commission's lawyer, and demanded the immediate release of those arrested and respect for their physical and moral integrity.

RIGHTISTS ACCUSED OF THREATENING DEMOCRACY

PA221746 San Jose Cadena Internacional de Solidaridad in Spanish 0530 GMT 22 Mar 81

[Via Managua Radio Sandino: Commentary by Carlos Salazar: "The Right Wants To Establish a Dictatorship in Costa Rica"]

[Excerpts] This week Costa Ricans were witness to the many actions staged by the extreme rightists who are now protected by the warmongering shadow cast by former Hollywood actor Ronald Reagan. The ingenuousness of the Costa Ricans is promoted by the news media. Only a few minutes after the terrorist bombs were set off at two different places in San Jose, the radio stations, through their hired pens, solved the crimes even before the police began their investigations. Those pens and voices that encourage fascism and defend the Latin American dictatorships immediately blamed leftist groups, Latin American political refugees and the socialist diplomatic missions.

Those reactions were foreseen. The path has been cleared not only for those barbaric acts but also for an escalation of repression against the leftist groups and subsequently against the honest progressives who defend human rights and against the people. Only a few more details are needed for the industry of repression to being mass production.

The first victims of the repression are the political refugees. Like a witch hunt, the scarlet letter is being placed on the foreigners and nationals who are enemies of the dictatorships. Almost 200 have been arrested. There have been raids on houses, political party headquarters, labor organization offices and even a high school.

Most Costa Ricans are unaware of our have been lulled by the news media regarding these actions. The news media only waited a few days after the victory of the Sandinist revolution to begin their attacks against the Nicaraguan National Reconstruction Government junta and President Carazo, who participated in that liberation struggle. They denounced the aid that Panama, Venezuela, Mexico and Costa Rica gave the Sandinist Front. They also denounced the transshipment of weapons for the Nicaraguan insurrection and did not hesitate to fabricate the story that President Carazo received a huge bribe to participate in the Nicaraguan struggle.

Today, months after Alfonso Robelo's departure from the Nicaraguan Government, we hear him at all hours on the radio stations encouraging the counterrevolution against the Nicaraguan people and calling for condemnation of the Salvadoran people's struggle. The voices of the local Robelos repeat his slogans here, condemn the Nicaraguan process and ask for U.S. intervention not only in Nicaragua but in all Central America to stop our peoples' liberation process.

This time the right has dealt a successful blow. The anticommunist campaign of the press and the delayed approval for the arrival of U.S. warships in Costa Rican ports on a friendship mission opened the way for the actions of the fascists. Without any investigations, the terrorist actions were unjustly blamed on the leftist groups.

The stage had been set by the right for the essential purpose of destabilizing the Carazo administration and blocking the forthcoming elections that will be held in February 1982. The campaign began more than a year ago. The first target was Radio Noticas del Continente. Reactionaries and the U.S. imperialists knew well that this radio station defended human rights and the Latin American peoples' liberation struggles and that it was an enemy of the continent's dictatorships. Those groups promoted the closing of the radio station following several terrorist attacks against the radio's installations and personnel. Then came the attack on the Nicaraguan Embassy that was justified by the various news media.

From the White House, the former Hollywood actor must be very pleased to see what is occurring in Costa Rica to strengthen his warmongering and fascist position and to put the final touches on the military intervention in El Salvador and Nicaragua and the Vietnamization of Central America and to end, once and for all, the up-to-now exemplary Costa Rican democracy.

EL SALVADOR

GUTIERREZ COMMENTS ON PEACE, OTHER OBJECTIVES

PA221835 Paris AFP in Spanish 1520 GMT 22 Mar 81

[By Oscar Martinez]

[Text] San Salvador, 21 Mar (AFP)--Col Abdul Gutierrez, vice president of the Salvadoran Government junta, has said in an exclusive interview with AFP that peace talks are a viable instrument for achieving a political solution.

The colonel admitted that the provisional government which took power in October 1978, has not yet met all its socioeconomic goals and its goal of peace and is facing a critical economic situation.

Dialogue is an instrument by which the guerrilla forces can be incorporated into the country's democratization process, the officer said. We are saying to them, "come, let's talk and join us," because "we believe that the conflict can be solved by means of the vote."

According to Colonel Gutierrez everything depends on how the term dialogue is interpreted. "To us it means to sit down and talk and in this sense it s viable."

He said, however, that the opposition has not wished to accept this "because their militarist position prevents this." However, he said, "they want to give the impression that the armed forces do not want this."

On the other hand, he noted that although it has been difficult for the armed forces to grant amnesty, the army has honored it without problems.

The colonel noted that during the Vietnam war "they talked, they sat down at the negotiations table and continued to fight for a long time. The Marxists never rule out the possibility of dialogue." At the same time, he said, "no sensible government can rule out dialogue, either, because it cannot close the doors to a peaceful settlement."

With regard to the critical economic situation, Gutierrez said that it had various causes, particularly, "the very difficult process of the past 4 years."

In that period there occurred "a drain of capital, of businessmen and of skills, a lack of investment and above all a suspension of foreign aid," the vice president said.

To this must be added the suspension of international loans to some 200 industries; "that is, this entire combination of adversities outweighs any military or economic aid that may be given to the country," Gutierrez said.

A decline in exports also contributed to the crisis. The present prices of coffee, the country's main export, are so low that the producer does not make enough to pay off government loans, Colonel Gutierrez explained.

Cotton, the colonel said, was not planted in the usual amounts because of the lack of security in the country and the risk involved in investing money. In 1980, only 90,000 manzanas were planted, while in the 1970's there was an average of 120,000 and even 150,000 manzanas of cotton, Gutierrez said.

The problem with sugarcane was rooted in the guerrilla's destruction of the cane fields, the vice president said. He said that in 1978 production was 6.5 million quintals of sugar, but in 1979 it was a mere 3.9 million, while internal consumption is 3.3 million quintals.

Peace is necessary for the country to be reactivated. "The levels are already better," the colonel said.

The first objective is to maintain a production growth of at least 3 percent, because in 1980 the GNP fell by 8.5 percent, Gutierrez announced. By 1979, he confessed, the GNP had fallen by 2.3 percent. "Thus there is a clear decline and we want to return to the 1979 rates."

Colonel Gutierrez said: I cannot give the unemployment figures because "they increase daily," although he did not reject a figure of 30 percent.

The cost of living is also increasing. According to his data, there was a 15 percent increase in 1979, 18 percent in 1980 and this year the increase may be even larger.

Foreign aid is thus necessary, Gutierrez admitted, and said: We have estimated it at some 500 million colones ($2.0 million).

The matter of a just distribution of wealth is a long-term affair, "although this provisional government will set the bases to make this an irreversible process," Gutierrez said.

Gutierrez admitted that one of the objectives not yet met by the junta is that of ending the violence, which is "still impossible to control."

On the other hand, he said: "We are in the process of solving" that problem and "the levels are much lower."

Regarding the so-called progressive church, which counts Msgr Oscar Romero and several priests among its dead, Colonel Gutierrez said that some changes are visible.

"There is and there has been a sector of the church that has styled itself the popular tendency and that participates directly in all political activities and, above all, is a part of the Revolutionary Democratic Front."

I believe that the church is making many rectifications because like all institutions, like our own institution, it experienced problems, the vice president of El Salvador said in conclusion.

OPPOSITION LEADERS ON U.S. AID, STRATEGY, WEAPONS

Shafik Handal of PCES

NC211944 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1200 GMT 21 Mar 81

[Report on interview with Shafik Handal, Secretary General of the Communist Party of El Salvador by the Lebanese paper AS-SAFIR--place and date not given]

[Excerpts] In an interview conducted by AS-SAFIR *correspondent Salih (?Qallas)* with Comrade Shafik Handal, the secretary general of the Communist Party of El Salvador [PCES] and one of the leaders of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, he said. There is a small Arab community in El Salvador and I believe that the majority of the approximately 2,000 people is Palestinian. It is no secret that among the ranks of our revolutionaries there are a number of cadres of Arab origin. There are also a number of merchants of Arab descent who support the government.

In addition, Comrade Shafik Handal mentioned several facts about the blazing revolutionary situation in El Salvador and about the role of U.S. imperialism against the Latin American people as well as about the relationship between the revolution in El Salvador and other revolutionary forces in the world.

It is certain that there are many facts that can be deduced from this great Salvadoran leader's interview, facts that he did not specify because the time to tell all the facts is not yet here. Everyone in El Salvador is waiting anxiously with his finger on the trigger for fear of direct or indirect U.S. intervention.

Commenting on the extent of the revolutionary movement's success in El Salvador and the military victories achieved by the masses under the leadership of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, Comrade Handal said: The revolutionary movement in El Salvador exists in every part of the country, both in the cities and in the countryside. The movement enjoys wide popular support in these areas. Its military and quasimilitary control differ from place to place. Generally, I can tell you with all confidence that the government's military forces are not even in control of the capital of San Salvador.

As for our military organizations, we have three types of forces: the self-defense forces which are stationed in liberated and semiliberated areas and whose role is confined to confronting the attacks launched by the government's forces; the commando forces made up of groups of commandos whose task is to launch attacks from their bases against government military targets and to capture booty, particularly weapons, and to return to their fortified bases; the quasiregular forces consisting of city militias whose task is to conduct specific operations in government areas, which defend the masses and popular organizations against attacks by fascist terrorist groups and government forces.

At this point, I would like to point out that in the past few months and since our revolution began a new stage, we have seen that it was no longer [words indistinct] fighting with the quasiregular forces, namely, the militias, and for this reason we decided to establish fixed defense lines in the liberated areas. We set up training centers in these areas to prepare the fighters. Thus, it was necessary to move some of our forces from the cities to these bases. This does not mean that we no longer have forces in the cities but rather that our forces are everywhere in El Salvador.

As for the defense lines, they constitute fixed support centers and there area in certain regions totals hundreds of kilometers. Most of these regions are located in the rough and rugged areas; for example, three bases are located in volcanic areas.

At present, I cannot speak in detail about the number of the Salvadoran revolutionary forces. What I can say is that our regular forces, that is, the forces under arms 24 hours a day, number in the thousands, whereas the government's forces total approximately 17,000. I would also like to point out that the government's forces may be able to penetrate some of our bases if they rally all of their potential, but thus far they have not succeeded in such an operation despite hundreds of attacks in several areas of the country.

On the possibility of U.S. intervention against the revolution in El Salvador, Comrade Shafik Handal said: U.S. interference in our country began during the era of former U.S. President Jimmy Carter through major military aid to the ruling military group. When Reagan assumed power, the interference became more obvious. There has been much military aid, many experts and concentrations of mercenaries and naval movements in the Atlantic Ocean, in the Caribbean Sea and in the Panama Canal area as well as a military alert in Florida. I would like to affirm that this direct U.S. intervention is not aimed against El Salvador alone, but also against Nicaragua. The aim behind this is to reduce the revolutionary movement in Central America and the Caribbean area to what it was previous to the 70's.

I would like to note that the furor that the Reagan administration is raising over Nicaragua and its holding Nicaragua responsible for giving military support to El Salvador is aimed at creating justifications to carry out a military operation against the revolution [words indistinct]. Within this context, the Americans issued the so-called white paper in which they included claims that the Soviet Union, Cuba and the PLO bear the responsibility for the events in Central America.

On the sources of arms and on how the revolutionaries will get their arms, Shafik Handal said: I want to make this clear: Most of the arms we have, we captured from government soldiers. Hundreds of Western journalists have visited our liberated areas and seen the kinds of weapons we have. Some of these journalists accompanied our commandos in their raids against the government forces during which they captured large quantities of arms and equipment.

As for the aircraft incident, I assert that the operation took place without the knowledge of the Nicaraguan Government. Moreover, I affirm that our front has these aircraft and they did not take off from Nicaragua. Thus, I reaffirm that the U.S. administration's falsification of this incident was aimed at creating the justification to interfere in our affairs and those of Nicaragua.

We do not deny that our relationship with the revolution in Nicaragua is good and very advanced and that the greatest assistance that the Sandinist movement offered to our people and the peoples of the area was the overthrow of Somoza. However, we affirm that we have not received military or any other aid from Nicaragua or from any other country. I remind you now that the United States will fabricate stories about my visit to Beirut in order to find justification to strike at our revolution.

Finally, it remains to be said that here in Beirut, Shafik Handal is among his brothers and comrades in arms and only a few kilometers from the land of his grandfathers. Comrade Handal is the son of a Palestinian father from Bethlehem who emigrated to El Salvador in 1920 and who returned to Palestine to marry and then settled in El Salvador. Shafik Handal is proof of the unity of the revolutionary movement in the world and the unity of the peoples struggling against imperialism and Zionism. It is really a brotherhood and comradeship of blood.

FMLN's Roberto Roca

JN221622 Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic 21 Mar 81 pp 10-12

[AL-MUSTAQBAL correspondent Basim al-Mu'allim interview in San Salvador with Roberto Roca, member of the five-man General Command of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front--date not specified]

[Text] [Question] Commandante Roberto Roca, member of the five-man General Command of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front of El Salvador: The junta claims that the revolutionaries have lost several positions. When I was in the Guazapa region, I did not see a single revolutionary. The army seemed to be in control of the entire region. Does this mean that you have withdrawn from the northeastern front, which is the most important front? What are your losses and how do you assess the situation in the five other fronts?

[Answer] To assess our losses we should first assess those of the enemy. Our losses are reasonable considering the kind of war we are waging. The bigger loser in this war is not us but the army. Since we began our all-out offensive on 10 January, our military operations have been of a defensive nature. [sentence as published] Since that date, we have entered a new phase in our general strategy and we are consolidating our presence in several areas. The army has made several attempts to regain, or rather to occupy these centers. However, it sustained heavy losses and failed to achieve its objectives.

These centers are:
1. Guazapa.
2. Chalatenango.
3. San Vicente.
4. Morazan.
5. Usulutan.

[Question] Are you still occupying these centers?

[Answer] We are not only occupying them but we have also strengthened our presence in them in such a manner that any attempt by the army to seize them will be a costly operation.

In drawing up our strategy, we should take into consideration the popular geopolitical state of affairs peculiar to El Salvador. Our country's geography does not help popular military struggle, that is, the guerrilla warfare we are waging. Furthermore, population density poses another problem to such operations. We can understand the importance of these five regions to us if we take into consideration their large populations. Control over these liberated parts of our homeland has important and specific characteristics. It is not possible to have complete and continuous control over them in the conventional sense.

[Question] What is the stand of the people in these areas?

[Answer] The consolidation of our military presence in these areas would not be possible without the people's support. I will return to this point later.

Our military strategy lies in our revolutionary forces' ability to retreat, avoid the attacks of the armed forces and then advance after the armed forces have lost the impetus which they enjoyed at the beginning of the attack. The best example of the soundness of this strategy is the situation in San Pedro in the past 15 days. The armed forces launched a fierce attack in this area with 4,000 soldiers. We were able to defeat this force by retreating to geographic terrain less favorable to the army, where we contained the attack and kept it at a limited level. Later, we were gradually able to regain the whole area, including the point from which the army launched its attack.

Briefly, the Farabundo Marti liberation movement was able to score this strategic advance without sustaining heavy losses. Naturally, we faced difficulties. However, these difficulties were understandable. It is to be expected when a revolution is transferred from one strategic phase to another.

[Question] Hence, you will continue in this ebb and flow type of war?

[Answer] Until we decide, in light of the facts, to move to a new strategic phase. Any move we make will be inside our own territory. What is important is that our military rear area is still on Salvadoran soil. Thus far, our military withdrawals have been incremental, and we have been able to regain the areas from which we had withdrawn. The withdrawals and advances were for tactical reasons and were carried out inside Salvadoran territory. The junta's forces tried to make the people believe that we were in a state of permanent retreat. Had this been true, we would have now been outside our country's border.

[Question] In your understanding, therefore, withdrawal is not retreat?

[Answer] I did not say this. It is a tactical retreat. The enemy cannot say that we did not resist and that we did not regain the positions from which we had withdrawn. After every retreat, we regained the land from which we had withdrawn. The result is the retreat and redeployment of our forces to regroup and crush enemy positions in order to weaken and exhaust him.

However, we have to admit that the enemy was recently able to raid and invade our areas, forcing us to redeploy our forces inside these areas.

[Question] If the morale of your forces is like yours, then you are in an enviable position. But morale alone is not sufficient. There will come a day when your weapons and ammunition will run out. Since Washington admits that Nicaragua has stopped passing weapons through Honduras to you, how are you going to continue the struggle?

[Answer] The morale of our fighters is better than mine. (He gave a long laugh, got out of his Honduras-made car and resumed). From the beginning, we have always said that the people of El Salvador can wage the battle and be victorious by their own efforts. No people's liberation revolution can continue its struggle if it does not build it on this base. However, several peoples and states have supported our revolution politically, but their military support was based on the experiences of their revolutions.

The largest quantity of weapons we have, we obtained from the enemy himself. Consequently, we say that the more weapons the enemy gets, the more of these weapons we get.

The rest of the advanced weapons we need, we buy on the international arms market. We visit this market when the need arises. We arm ourselves by capturing the weapons from the enemy. Therefore, there is no foreign military intervention on our side. The people of El Salvador are waging their battle by themselves.

[Question] Washington does not say this. It accuses Cuba, Nicaragua and Moscow of arming you and of intervening militarily in your behalf.

[Answer] The propaganda campaign launched by U.S. imperialism to implicate our brothers in Central America and in the world and accuse them of supplying us with direct military aid is a campaign of deception. This is not new. These states and people have become accustomed to such propaganda campaigns launched by Washington during their own popular liberation wars.

[Question] Do you deny the military aid which Washington convinced its allies you had received from certain parties and which it included in its white paper?

[Answer] It is the United States which is interfering in the affairs of El Salvador. This is no longer a secret. We consider its intervention an act of war which endangers not only our people's safety and security but the peace of Central America and the world. We believe that the people have the right to solve their own political problems without any party's interference. Therefore, we protest and call on the states of the world to participate in rejecting the imperialist military intervention in our affairs by the administration of U.S. President Ronald Reagan.

The U.S. administration is the real, major practitioner of intervention, offering systematic support for the fiercest and dirtiest factions in this political and military conflict.

[Question] Do you see any hope for a halt to and containment of the intervention you speak of?

[Answer] In fact, we expect this intervention to increase. We warn that if it increases we will expand the area of our struggle and turn the El Salvador revolution into a regional one. We are fully convinced that the people of Central America, as they have before in similar situations, will become a single fist in the face of the foreign invading forces trying to impose their will on Central America.

We do not want the situation to be aggravated in this way. We are fighting to establish peace in El Salvador and not as Washington and the junta's army allege. The junta's army is fighting to establish the peace of the graveyard and to completely eliminate the opposition.

Do not forget that the war in El Salvador began because the people were not able to assert themselves and peacefully achieve their political aspirations.

Coexistence with the junta's army was not and is not conceivable now. Fighting is the only road left for the people to follow in order to secure their survival and safety.

Thus, although we would like to contain the crisis and keep the war within El Salvador's borders, President Ronald Reagan pops up, as I said, and militarily interferes in our affairs. This will force us to spread the revolution all over Central America, despite what it might bring in the form of an international explosion.

Therefore, we believe that the people of this world can intensify their efforts to stop and contain the U.S. military intervention.

[Question] Doesn't this depend on your relations with the popular movements in Central America and on how you establish these relations?

[Answer] Historically, these relations have been characterized by fraternity and mutual support. With the eruption of our civil war, these relations developed into a more positive position.

For example, in Guatemala, the other imperialist stronghold, our relations with the liberation movements are strong and magnificent. Both of us fight against similar regimes, or rather one a single criminal regime in Guatemala and El Salvador.

But we understand the need for each of us to enjoy his political independence. Each maintains fraternal relations and at the same time respect the independence and sovereignty of the other in his country.

[Question] One of the common denominators among you is the Catholic Church which, in both countries, is influenced by the role of the rulers and the right but the church establishment in El Salvador has started to blame you for some of your practices in the villages. I was told of this by Archbishop Arturo Rivera y Damas. How do you assess the position of this establishment in El Salvador?

[Answer] Let us begin by dotting the I's and crossing the T's. The overwhelming majority in the church supports and backs our revolution. There are some sectors that approve of the junta's repressive measures. This makes it impossible to talk about the stand of the church as a unit. The inside of the church mirrors the experience being witnessed by the country now. The hierarchy of the church works to bring the two wings together. In doing this, it does not see to or adopt the interests of the people's forces. But, in the church's point of view, the church's support for the popular options is stronger than it was before. The bishop faces the same difficulties as his establishment in keeping to a line which agrees with the status quo in this war. Some of what Rivera y Damas said reflects this suffering. Any way, we want to establish good and strong relations with the church. We are trying to prove to Archbishop Arturo Rivera y Damas and the church that they sometimes did not support or have agreement on the status quo.

For example, in their judgement on FMLN's actions against the peasants, they did not understand that the army is composed of many factions with sick and criminal tendencies and that the military actions the FMLN carries out are against the army and not against the peasants, whom we defend against the army.

But the civilians working for the death army (the ORDEN) [Nationalist Democratic Organization] are the army's agents in the villages. The church must understand that the ORDEN is an armed criminal group and that our actions against them are only defensive. Isn't it absurd to say this as if it were an accusation that we do not treat the peasant well, at a time when the peasants are joining our revolution day after day and in large numbers?

[Question] The right accuses you of forcing the "campesinos", the peasants, to join the revolution.

[Answer] These are lies, for after 10 January, 5,000 additional "campesinos" joined our revolution. Why should the peasants join the revolution if they had another stand? We wonder why the army imposes compulsory conscription when joining our forces is voluntary? Therefore, Archbishop Rivera y Damas' statements came to show things in which he does not believe. He believes in something which he did not say.

[Question] He might not yet have forgotten the assassination of Archbishop Romero. He might see that a solution can be reached through national reconciliation between the junta and the revolutionaries. Are there any plans to begin negotiations with the junta?

[Answer] The General Command of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front deems it neither useful nor important to talk or negotiate with the ruling junta because the Christian Democratic-military junta does not represent any stratum of the people. It represents the people's oppressors. It is merely a political puppet. However, we are ready to negotiate with those backing this junta. We are ready to negotiate with Ronald Reagan himself. We are also ready to negotiate with the Salvadoran bourgeois, the middle class and any sector of the Salvadoran society that wants to hold a dialogue or negotiations with us.

[Question] Is this how you describe your former ally President Jose Napoleon Duarte?

[Answer] Duarte obtained popular support when he was our ally. However, he was reneged and betrayed the people. He was quite dishonorably agreed to be a large political puppet. Duarte's case is unprecedented in the history of El Salvador. In the history of our country, never has there been a traitor who carried a placard saying: My country is for sale. Duarte has sold it to the U.S. military.

[Question] Your people are hungry, exhausted, displaced and tortured. How do you expect these people to continue rallying around you?

[Answer] Our future carries with it the radiance of a tomorrow that will bring about our victory. The greater the U.S. military intervention gets, the more these people, whom you describe as poor and crushed, rally around their revolution. Let the civil war drag on. Neither we nor the people want this. This is the desire by our people's enemies: Ronald Reagan and the ruling junta. We will witness further solidarity from the revolutionary movements and peoples in Central America, such as Nicaragua, Honduras and Costa Rica. This will be done for their own defense as well because the U.S. intervention threatens security and peace in their states as well as in the region as a whole.

[Question] What about poverty in El Salvador--the poverty about which I have asked you?

[Answer] Ten years of struggle have taught our people to overcome hunger. These 10 years have taught our people to fight under difficult and different geographical conditions. They have also taught our people to continue the struggle in defense of themselves and their lives. If you study the development of our revolution, you will find that 2 years ago, for example, our position was weak when U.S. intervention was weak. When U.S. intervention increases, the participation of our people and the brothers surrounding us in the revolution increases in order to achieve the great victory.

[Question] Then you see a positive factor in the U.S. intervention.

[Answer] All the other factors are negative, yes. In the same way as the U.S. intervention in Southeast Asia (Vietnam) could not curb the desire for freedom, its military intervention in Central America will not be able to curb our desire for freedom. On the contrary, it will redouble and strengthen the potential for victory.

[Question] Will you move again in the capital? Will you continue to follow your military strategy in your war in the villages?

[Answer] Should we reveal our plans from the military point of view?

[Question] I apologize for this question. Let's end with a question which I think you can answer. What about the people in America? What about the rest of the world?

[Answer] The world must seriously assess the objectives of the U.S. administration's escalation of its intervention in our affairs. The world must wonder about the importance of even the implications of this intervention, considering it an indication of the seriousness of the U.S. administration's intentions and the dangers these intentions pose to world security. Hence, there is the need to contain this escalation. This is not only the responsibility of the Salvadoran people. As for the U.S. people, we are fully convinced that the majority of the Americans are against this escalation due to the dangers contained in it. The greater danger in it lies in the fact that a large number of their sons take part in this war and get killed. We do not want to be assassinated by the U.S. soldiers nor do we want to be forced to kill them out of self-defense.

FDR's Ana Maria Echeverria

LD201553 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 20 Mar 81 pp 36-38

[Hasan Hamadah interview with Ana Maria Echeverria, member of the higher command of the "Revolutionary Democratic Front of El Salvador and Central America," which includes the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, in Paris--date not specified]

[Excerpts] Eagleburger, General Haig's assistant for European Affairs, has been touring NATO capitals carrying the "white paper on El Salvador" which contains a detailed CIA report to prove that Moscow, Cuba, Vietnam, Nicaragua and Ethiopia are interfering in the "internal affairs of El Salvador."

Why did Washington blow up the El Salvador case and put it above Afghanistan and Poland? Is it because Washington is looking for a small victory to prove that the time of detente has gone and that the new president means what he says?

In the midst of the uproar, the El Salvador opposition envoy was following in the footsteps of U.S. envoy Eagleburger from capital to capital carrying a denial of the "white paper."

This envoy is a woman. Her name is Ana Maria Echeverria. She is a young woman, not yet 30, with a command of several languages. She is a member of the higher command of the Revolutionary Democratic Front of El Salvador and Central America, which includes several organizations including the unified military organization known as the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front.

The following is our dialogue with her:

AL-HAWADITH: The "white paper on El Salvador" which the U.S. administration has prepared contains a detailed review of the military aid you receive from the Soviet Union, Cuba, Nicaragua, Vietnam, Ethiopia and so on. You have rejected the contents of this paper without giving any evidence refuting it.

Echeverria: Instead of asking us to give proof to refute the contents of the paper prepared by the CIA and carried by the U.S. assistant secretary of state for European Affairs, Mr Eagleburger, to leaders of West European NATO countries, the Americans themselves must be asked not to fabricate such reports which reality refutes. Most of the weapons that we use are U.S.-manufactured. Is it conceivable that we obtained them from the Soviet Union, or Cuba, or Vietnam, or Nicaragua, or Ethiopia? We obtained these weapons from the Salvadoran Army when our fighting units occupied a number of army barracks and ammunition depots, and subsequently through a number of officers who joined our forces and mutinied against the dictatorial command led by Napoleon Duarte. The most prominent military men who mutinied against the rightist dictatorship and joined us were Col (Crozi Cross), Col Mena Sandoval, and Col Bruno Navarrete. Recently a whole artillery battalion joined us. The paper to which you referred was prepared by the CIA. Its purpose is to justify U.S. interference in El Salvador in order to preserve the tyrannical terrorist regime which has severed all relations with the people and relies only on U.S. support and support from some pro-U.S. regimes in Central America, Israel, and South Africa. The number of American advisers is now in the hundreds, and not a few score as U.S. propaganda a'leges. For many years the Americans were present in our country, placing their expertise at the disposal of dictator General Romero and now at the disposal of the dictatorial officers who perpetrate collective and individual killings of farmers, workers, priests and students. It is clear from the statements of General Haig and the rest of the U.S. leadership that the Americans are preparing for a large-scale intervention in El Salvador in order to keep power in the hands of the terrorist dictatorship, even if the price is killing the largest possible number of citizens. If the Americans do not wish to listen to us, they only have to listen to some of the Christian democrat leaders who took part in the October 1979 coup which toppled General Romero's dictatorship and then split with the ruling military gang. One example is Colonel Majano, member of the former command, who broke with Napoleon Duarte and joined the opposition, and was detained for more than 10 days. If the U.S. President's administration is sincere about preserving the lives of Americans, why doesn't he heed the blood of the American nuns killed by government forces simply because they came from the United States to help the Salvadoran revolution prompted by their Christian consciences. Why? Are those nuns no longer Americans simply because they came to El Salvador to help the poor, who are persecuted by the terrorist government? Hunger and disease are ravaging our people, and coercion and terror are the only medicine used by the military rule. If the United States really believes in democracy, why doesn't it listen to us when we have announced our readiness to have a dialogue with Washington?

AL-HAWADITH: You say that most of your weapons are U.S.-manufactured and that you obtain weapons from the depots of the regular army. Where do the rest of the weapons come from?

Echeverria: We buy them on the international arms market. This is not difficult for anybody.

AL-HAWADITH: Where does the money to buy these arms come from?

Echeverria: We obtain money from the rich. In 1970 the five organizations of which the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front consists decided to wage an armed struggle against dictatorship. We did not have a single weapon then. The Salvadoran Army was solidly behind the military authorities. Our young men began manufacturing explosives and our first operations began with explosives. After 11 years of experience this industry is highly developed. But of course the explosives were not enough. We had to find the necessary funds to buy machineguns and pistols. We began kidnapping some of the rich people who benefit from the regime and released them in return for ransom. Thus we have been and still are able to obtain money for the purchase not only of arms but also of food and medicine. I would like to stress that today we have a highly developed explosives industry conforming with our capabilities.

AL-HAWADITH: You spoke about Israeli support for the ruling dictatorship in El Salvador. Napoleon Duarte admitted this at the beginning of the attack you launched on 10 January. What exactly is the magnitude of this aid, and what areas does it cover?

Echeverria: Under the provisions of the agreement between the dictatorial authorities and the State of Israel, that state gives the Salvadoran Government aid for agricultural development. But this provision is purely formal in that the dictatorial authorities received no aid in the agricultural field and do not want such aid. This agreement was concluded as a cover for the military aid which Israel gives the Salvadoran authorities. A considerable amount of Israeli arms has entered El Salvador. The Jewish state also has a number of military experts training Napoleon Duarte's army on the use of these arms. Israel is also training the Salvadoran Air Force. Our information is very accurate. After we ascertained that Israeli-made weapons were being used by the regular army, our forces attacked the Israeli Embassy in San Salvador with explosives and machineguns. We are against Zionism, which is the ugliest form of racism, and we consider the State of Israel an enemy of El Salvador and of all the peoples demanding their right to a free and dignified life. I would like, through your paper, to address the Arab world in order to demonstrate our real attitude toward it: We support the Palestinian people's struggle and right to restore their lands. And, out of our belief in the right of peoples to determine their future, we sympathize with all the Third World's peoples who are striving for liberation and democracy.

AL-HAWADITH: You have said that the number of American "experts," whom Washington described as "specialists," runs into hundreds, whereas American administration sources say that their figure so far is 54. What is the real figure?

Echeverria: By 27 February, the number of American experts was 800. This number is expected to increase. On 17 January, American arms began arriving in huge quantities by air and overland. I believe that this is the best proof of the vast scale of American military intervention in our country.

AL-HAWADITH: Some American leaders are quoted as having said that this will not repeat the Vietnam experience. Do you fear the "Vietnamization" of El Salvador?

Echeverria: I do not know what they mean by not repeating the Vietnam experience. They are involved in El Salvador. It appears that their involvement will increase, and our resistance to this intervention will intensify to match. The American administration must understand that in El Salvador the whole people are rebelling against a brutal, barbaric dictatorship which has offered nothing to the people but murder, terror, hunger, poverty and unemployment. In El Salvador, the entire people are rebelling and demanding social justice and democracy. Our revolution is very similar to the revolution of Nicaragua and Napolean Duarte, whose clique is similar to Somoza and his clique. We would prefer the American intervention to cease. We are prepared to negotiate with the United States but, at the same time, we are not afraid to fight. This is our country, its wealth belongs to us, and its independence is an acquired right and so is its sovereignty. The Americans must choose between befriending a self-respecting people and supporting a regime that is hostile to the people and antagonizing an entire people. If the American administration is sincere in what it says, it has only to befriend the people and not disgraceful regimes which are rejected by the people. What we demand does not go beyond social justice and democracy. If this annoys the Americans, it shows that they have gained no benefit from their past and present experiences. Certain statements made by American officials do not augur well, regrettably. White House UN Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick told the American press recently: "Helping undermine Somoza's regime was tantamount to pouring oil on the fire of a civil war in which 40,000 Nicaraguan citizens were casualties." The ambassador forget that, had the tyrant's regime continued, it would have led to more bloodshed. What is more serious is that the ambassador considered that "the economic rights and the right to food, housing, education and medicine" had been thrust into the framework of human rights in a fantastic manner. This view seems to reflect the prevailing mentality in Washington. Likewise General Haig's statement, in which he said that America "will not sacrifice regimes that are rejected by the people if the alternative regimes will be left-oriented." These two examples are not a good omen.

AL-HAWADITH: But you are prepared to enter into negotiations with the United States. What are the bases of these negotiations?

Echeverria: Yes. We are prepared to negotiate with the American administration because we are convinced of the rightness of our cause. The bases on which we want to negotiate are the following: the halting of all American aid to the ruling clique in San Salvador; the establishment of pluralist democracy that will ensure the realization of the necessary economic and social reforms; and noninterference in the affairs of our people. This is all we ask--the simplest components of sovereignty. We want direct negotiations with the United States and not with the dictator Duarte, because we prefer to talk with the circus master and not with the clown.

AL-HAWADITH: In an interview with an American journalist, Nicaraguan Interior Minister Tomas Borge Martinez admitted that arms have reached you via Nicaragua and that a Sandinist army force is helping your forces. Doesn't this give the Americans the excuse to say that Nicaragua is intervening militarily in El Salvador and so justify their intervention to support the dictatorial authority?

Echeverria: I think that the journalist was not honest in what he attributed to Tomas Borge. The proof is that the Nicaraguan foreign minister, Father Miguel d'Escoto (a Catholic priest) has refuted the American allegations in this connection.

AL-HAWADITH: What then is your relationship with the Sandinist revolution?

Echeverria: It is a relationship of mutual respect and "cooperation." We did not have not asked Nicaragua to support us with arms, because its situation does not allow it to do so. It is a poor country like ours. When we triumph we will build ideal relations with it.

Despite our love for and admiration of the Sandinists, our Salvadoran revolution is our only school. On this basis, we shall not copy anybody's system and we shall respect all regimes except the dictatorial regimes from which we are suffering very bitterly. Our revolution commander martyr Farabundo Marti had earlier fought alongside the father of the Nicaraguan Revolution (Sandino). For this reason, I say that we and they have a long common experience. There is no doubt that the success of the Sandinist revolution has been an encouragement to us.

AL-HAWADITH: Is there any resemblance between the role of the church in El Salvador and its role in Nicaragua?

Echeverria: Yes, there is a great resemblance. In Nicaragua, the church split into two churches: One supported the Sandinists and participated in the revolution; the other remained on the side of Somoza and in a position hostile to the people. The latter fell with the downfall of the tyrant. In our country too, the church split. The church of the priests who chose the path of orthodox Catholicism joined the people, experienced their pains and sufferings and offered a large number of martyrs, foremost among them the great martyr Romero, archbishop of San Salvador. The larger part of the church is still supporting the dictatorial authorities and disregarding the crimes that are committed by them. The Christianity of these priests is in doubt. We in El Salvador are devout Catholic people, and the church has a basic role to play in building the new Salvadoran society.

AL-HAWADITH: What about your relations with the Christian Democratic Party?

Echeverria: The Christian Democratic party has become divided. In the beginning it used to support the military regime in the hope that that regime would carry out the reforms it promised following the October 1979 coup. But as soon as it became clear that the new militarists were no better than General Romero, the Christian Democratic Party split with the authorities and some of its representatives, who were in the majority, withdrew and joined the opposition. The split then spread to the military, most prominent in which was Colonel Majano. This split broke the link between the Christian Democratic parties in the west and the dictatorial regime in our country. For example, two Christian Democratic parties in Europe, the Netherlands and the Swedish parties, announced the stopping of all support for the military junta in El Salvador and considered Duarte's regime a blemish on Christian democracy. Therefore, we say that Christian democracy has a definite role in developing our new society.

AL-HAWADITH: Second, what is the secret of your relationship with international socialism?

Echeverria: Our relations with that camp are very good. It was the first in the West to understand our problem and the first to open its doors to us. Our contacts with Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky, Willy Brandt, Helmut Schmidt and others are as good as can be. Therefore, we did not object to their mediation between us and Washington, because they understand our problem and are ready to support us. Those leaders know well that our basic demand is to establish a pluralist democracy and that our line is the line of nonalignment.

AL-HAWADITH: Are you wagering on a military coup d'etat in your favor?

Echeverria: We do not want any military coups. The military understand this quite well. Whoever supports us must only join the ranks of our fighters, who are fighting a war on three fronts in our country. A military coup will not lead to a political change in the army's mentality. We are wagering on a change in the mentality of this army and on building a new army. We are concentrating on political and ideological action within the army.

AL-HAWADITH: What do you mean by political and ideological action?

Echeverria: The military system has provided that the army should be a servant of the dictator and that the people are the enemy as long as they are the enemy of the dictator. As for the alternative army that we are building, it is founded on a new mentality whose basis is that the army derives from the people and that its role is to preserve the people and the country. This mentality has become rooted in our new army which is fighting a regular war against the government army. In addition to this army, there are the militias of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, which embodies various democratic trends and currents. I would like to point out something extremely important, namely, that these organizations have never once clashed with one another. This is an established fact that cannot be denied.

FMLN's Joaquin Villalobos

PA211713 San Jose Cadena Internacional de Solidaridad in Spanish 0530 GMT 21 Mar 81

[Via Managua Radio Sandino]

[Text] The general offensive launched by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] on 10 January was of limited duration and had specific tactical and strategic goals. Within those parameters, the maneuver was a complete success, according to Joaquin Villalobos, member of the FMLN General Command, in an interview with the INDEPENDENT PRESS AGENCY and Radio Noticias del Continente.

The insurgent leader said that first of all, by taking the strategic initiative the Salvadoran popular forces placed the enemy on the defensive. He explained that after the 10 January actions, the FMLN was able to consolidate the positions that have now given it a greater area of operations, allowed many fighters to get used to sophisticated weapons and laid the groundwork for a time in the future in which it will be possible for the democratic military forces to achieve a military victory.

Joaquin Villalobos, who, despite his youth, is a veteran of the political and military struggle in El Salvador, added that the regime does not have the ability to govern the country, a fact that is reflected in a state of permanent instability and in guerrilla control of extensive areas of the territory, particularly rural areas.

Despite the repression and genocide continuously practiced by the military-Christian Democratic junta, the Salvadoran people are participating in the struggle in many ways, the insurgent leader said. In areas under guerrilla control, he explained, the residents have been incorporated into the people's power organization. Some sectors are involved in the production of food for our strategic units.

Regarding the urban areas, Joaquin Villalobos said that the working class is participating by means of work slowdowns, thus cooperating in the economic sabotage being carried out by the FMLN urban and suburban units. He noted the (?importance) of these actions in sectors that are not involved in specific military tasks because of the lack of weapons. He said that entire sectors are cooperating in this type of action, to the point of daring to declare strikes at a time when they are subject to a repression that is unprecedented in Central America and in Latin America in general.

Another example of the people's participation in the war of liberation that is underway in El Salvador is the people's committees, according to the guerrilla commander. In this regard, he said that through these committees, as well as the neighborhood units, the people help by observing the movements of army troops, by pointing out the informers of the repressive forces, and by carrying out other tasks.

In brief, Villalobos said, there is a great variety of ways in which the masses participate, ranging from passivity, that is, submission to avoid being annihilated, to insurrectional or preinsurrectional actions that enable the expansion of the FMLN forces.

Some international sectors have mentioned the possibility of intervention by a third force in the Salvadoran conflict, either through the OAS or the United Nations, using the blue helmets.

Commander Villalobos said this is no more than another imperialist maneuver designed to subdue the will and self-determination of the Salvadoran people. On the possibility of such an intervention, Commander Villalobos said: Our country's democratic forces and our entire people would reject any kind of intervention, whatever colors or banner it comes under.

We feel that such an intervention would be based on false premises, such as the denial that our people are inclined toward insurrection and the assertion that the people are, instead, confronting two forces: on the one hand, the forces of the junta and on the other, the organized revolutionary forces.

Villalobos also denounced the Guatemalan Government and Army. He said that the position of that government and army is clear. They are loyal servants of the interests of the warmongering policy of the North Americans as well as the evil and loyal allies of the genocidal Salvadoran junta.

Villalobos said the development of the revolutionary movement in Guatemala and its process of coordination within the context of the Central American struggle are vital to efforts to counter those interventionist plans. If this coordination takes place, it is obvious that the imperialists will not be able to use the Guatemalan military forces as a means of intervention.

Villalobos said that Honduras is a different case because the imperialist interventionist plans are not supported by some sectors of the Honduran Army and Government. If the policies of these sectors are consolidated, take precedence within the government and prevent manipulation by the imperialists, our policy will be to respect those sectors.

Finally, Villalobos appealed to those Honduran sectors to cooperate with the activities also being carried out by the revolutionaries in Honduras, thereby allowing the Salvadoran people to advance and choose their destiny without having third forces make impositions on them or deny them the possibility of victory.

U.S. MILITARY AID DEFENDED IN FACE OF COMMUNISM

PA221239 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 1814 GMT 21 Mar 81

["Pace of Events" commentary: "Honesty and the Dignity of a Nation"]

[Text] On repeated occasions, especially before newsman, revolutionary government junta President Jose Napoleon Duarte has impartially outlined our country's political potential in the face of the counterrevolutionary aggression from abroad.

On some occasions, there have been attempts to guess the truth regarding U.S. technical aid to El Salvador at moments when this aid is the encouragement we need in the fight without truce unleashed by the Soviet Union.

International observers have come to the conclusion that the United States helps all countries where this type of phenomenon exists, just as it helps when there are earthquakes, hurricanes and all the plagues that assail mankind.

So it is nothing strange that now the great northern nation comes to the aid of our country because communism is like a plague and causes more deaths and destruction than all the plagues of the universe and it has now unleashed its fury against a small country. Only thus far, this country is showing the world the honesty and dignity of a country that rises to reject all kinds of slavery, like the one which Soviet Russia and its foreman, Cuba, are trying to impose upon us.

RADIO VENCEREMOS NOTES JUNTA'S FAILURES

PA230445 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 23 Mar 81

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] In this weekly summary of Radio Venceremos, we could not ignore certain current national events. One of these events has been the releasing of Colonel Majano who was being held by the genocidal junta.

If we analyze the behavior of the dictatorship during this past week, we will find a common denominator: craziness, contradictions, and disorganization.

We first noticed this situation in the military sector. In Wasapa, Chalatenango and Morazan, the army mobilized hundreds, thousands of men, the entire genocidal air force, its helicopters, its artillery, all the most modern war materiel, against the positions of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN].

In Morazan, to cite just one example, the army used thousands of men, bombed the area for more than 13 days, and still continues with the bombing, but has not been able to inflict one single casualty as a result of its artillery fire and air attacks.

Another sign of the incoherence and of the contradictions of the dictatorship, is the release of Colonel Majano. Gutierrez, Carranza and the military high command had publicly said they would jail Colonel Majano for a long time and that he would be brought to trial. There are, however, such contradictions in the army, there is so much pressure from the young officers, there is so much immorality within the army, that the dictatorship could not bring Colonel Majano to face trial and instead had to release him.

This has been week rich in military, diplomatic and political victories for the Salvadoran people. For the dictatorship it has been the complete opposite: failure after failure. The dictatorship has been defeated on the battlefield, in the diplomatic world, it has found isolation and politically it has suffered defeats and disasters.

GUATEMALA

MEXICAN INTERFERENCE IN BELIZE CASE REJECTED

PA230357 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 12 Mar 81 p 14

[Text] The Guatemalan Government has again rejected the interference of Mexico or any other country in the Belize problem.

Government spokesmen told the press that the problem is being solved in a honorable manner through negotiations between British and Guatemalan officials.

Any intervention, by whatever country, must be rejected from every point of view. Guatemala is a faithful observer of the principle of nonintervention in the affairs of other states and demands the same for itself.

The spokesmen did not go into details of the recent trip made by Mexican Foreign Minister Jorge Castaneda to London where he met with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to discuss matters related to Belize.

This intervention by the Mexican foreign minister must be rejected, the government said.

GROUP ASKS GOVERNMENT TO ANNUL BELIZE AGREEMENT

PA232053 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 23 Mar 81

[Text] A group called Guatemalans for the Recovery of Belize has asked the government to try to invalidate the bases of agreement reached with Great Britain and Belize recently in London. This committee of citizens issued a statement pointing out that if the Guatemalan constitution is studied, the only conclusion that can be reached is that the London agreement lacks any true value and that it is totally disadvantageous for Guatemala.

GOVERNMENT URGED TO BE MORE CONSISTENT IN POLICY

PA211617 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 10 Mar 81 p 2

["National Current Events" column: "Importance of a Coherent Overall Policy"]

[Text] Political observers--when you mention these "observers," please do not think of a group of very serious and imposing gentlemen dedicated to the analysis of national events because this means every citizen who reads newspapers, listens to radio and television newscasts, forms his own opinion and later comments on everyday affairs to give shape to what is known as public opinion--these observers, as we said, are somewhat confused at what appears to be incoherence in the government's behavior.

On the one hand, the government makes a serious charge regarding the role played by Cuba and Nicaragua in support of the subversive activities afflicting Guatemala--a case of intervention of the gravest kind--and then turns around with the president stating, as though nothing had happened, that relations with the Sandinist regime will continue as normally as they have up to now. For the ordinary citizen who pays taxes and goes to the polls to exercise his voting rights whenever he is called upon to do so, one thing does not match the other; there is something that does not fit and makes it difficult to understand.

It is positive fact that in order to be trustworthy, a nation's international policy should be in line with its domestic policy. It is part of a coherent and harmonious whole, indicative of ideological purity, doctrinaire firmness and institutional health. Without this consistency in both domestic and international actions, erratic situations arise that undermine the nation's credibility, not only in the eyes of the public at home and abroad, but also in the eyes of the community of nations of which it is a part. We cannot accuse a person of attacking us and later, without withdrawing the charge, say that we are as friendly as ever. There must first be reparations for the offense. The aggressor loses nothing. On the contrary, the inconsistency of the other party turns out in his favor. He can attribute it to insecurity or point to it as proof of the falseness of the charges against him. There is room, therefore, for doubt.

What is said about private matters can also be said about official matters. The behavior of the government with regard to the Sandinist regime has previously offered examples of this wavering or inconsistency.

On the occasion of the first anniversary of the Sandinist triumph, our country's foreign minister showed extraordinary meekness during the head-of-state treatment shown to Mr Price, the representative of Belize, and later, during the official speeches, when our government was deliberately offended. A less complaisant minister--or a more consistent one--would have walked out of the room as a sign of protest and taken the first plane back to his country to later make the pertinent complaints.

Instead, the minister remained as a guest of the Sandinist regime until the festivities had ended and, upon returning to Guatemala, instead of showing indignation over what had happened, made lengthy, pleasant statements deliberately downplaying the importance of what had happened.

Later there was the great anticommunist demonstration in support of the government held at Central Park in which the president clearly outlined his thoughts regarding the communist plot and the Sandinist role in it, following which that government immediately withdrew its ambassador in Guatemala. That was a consistent attitude. The coherence to which we have been referring worked. It was then our country's turn to stick to the same rule. But no, to everyone's surprise, the Guatemalan ambassador remained in Managua, the victim of insults and threats, as though nothing had happened. There was a lack of cohesion between the word and the deed. Also missing was a sense of reciprocity in an act which very rarely, only when there are good reasons, occurs unilaterally. The silent withdrawal of an ambassador in the wake of a disagreement between governments obligates the other party to proceed in the same manner.

There is evidently a grave failure in the management of foreign policy toward Central America. There is timidity, indecisiveness and excessive complaisance. The charges leveled against the Sandinist regime are extremely serious. They are the same ones that led the United States to suspend economic aid to Nicaragua and to withhold a grain shipment. Guatemala, the victim of a conspiracy, would have ample reason for severing relations with the Sandinists in a strong, dignified and above all, coherent way. It would at least have to withdraw its ambassador and leave the embassy in the hands of a minor official. But what cannot be conceived, no matter how great an effort is made, is that everything continue as always, in a state of false normality. This will be the subject of long, hard debates.

HONDURAS

BELIZE'S PRICE DEFENDS RIGHTS TO ZAPOTILLO CAYS

PA240416 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras in Spanish 1145 GMT 23 Mar 81

[Item from newspaper San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA, 23 March p 4--read by Salvador Canales]

[Text] The Belizean prime minister came to say that the Zapotillo Cays belong to them. Here is the report:

Belizean Prime Minister George Price declared here that in the case of Zapotillo Cays, the Honduran state is claiming something that does not belong to it. Price, who visited the capital this weekend, was emphatic in stating that the cays in dispute are owned by Belize. Consequently, they will not be ceded to any country. In the case of Guatemala, through agreement reached with great Britain its has been agreed to cede to that Central American republic the use of the maritime waterways, but at no time have they been ceded as has been hinted.

The minister, who is the top representative of the Belizeans, stressed that they have the pertinent documents which legally establish that the territories and the Ranguana Cays are of their exclusive property.

He also added that they will never permit an extension of their maritime jurisdiction from 3 to 12 km as is established by the respective juridic regulations.

According to the report, he also indicated that for the time being an agreement has been reached and subsequently a number of treaties will be signed to achieve the total independence of Belize. In a calm manner he asked that we let them solve the problem pending with Guatemala and then subsequently they will discuss the matter with Honduras, for the sake of maintaining friendship and good relations between our country and that British colony.

Our government claims ownership of all the territory, including all the maritime jurisdiction and, consequently, will defend the respective rights which correspond to it, he announced.

The Belizean prime minister, commenting on the demands raised by the Foreign Secretariat with the Governments of Guatemala and Great Britain, limited himself to saying that this is Honduras' stand, but that it does not involve ceding territory to anyone in particular. He emphasized that it solely involves permitting Guatemala the use of those cays, which will be defined in a future treaty.

On his meeting with the foreign minister, Price said that his visit to Honduras was one of pleasure, but that he took advantage of the opportunity to meet with Honduran Foreign Secretary Cesar Elvir Sierra with whom he naturally established his position regarding that dispute.

NICARAGUA

BAYARDO ARCE CRITICIZES U.S. POLICY IN LECTURE

PA212031 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0300 GMT 21 Mar 81

[Text] We are going to report on what just happened at the Central American University, where the Nicaraguan Institute of Historical Research presented Revolution Commander Bayardo Arce, coordinator of the Political Commission of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN], as its guest speaker. Approximately 600 people were attracted to this lecture because of the important topic he was to discuss: U.S. policy toward Central America.

Tonight, we newsmen were able to confirm and to strengthen our knowledge about the aggressions of U.S. imperialism against our free Nicaragua.

Commander Arce began by giving a historical background of U.S. intervention in Latin America. According to Arce, between 1800 and 1934, U.S. imperialism was involved in 180 interventions that hurt the sovereignty of the Latin American people. However, the most important and current matter involves the contents of reports that the vanguard of our people, the FSLN, has been able to accumulate regarding the aggressive attitudes of U.S. imperialism or U.S. administrations. For example, Commander Arce spoke of conclusive and real evidence--most of which has been already published in U.S. papers--regarding the existence of groups and advisory organizations of the Reagan administration--such as the Santa Fe group, the Advisory Institute on Latin American Studies of Georgetown University and the Heritage Foundation or organization--which have carried out political studies on how the United States should conduct its foreign policy.

Now let's get to the point. What is happening in Central America? Commander Bayardo Arce used a phrase which describes it: We are facing a crazy warmongering imperialist administration. In other words, we are facing crazy people. You have been hearing the most recent reports through this station on the participation of these organizations which give advice to the Reagan administration. We are talking about Mrs Jean Kilpatrick, the U.S. delegate to the United Nations. Her political condition for the defense of imperialist interests has led her to propose several theories of aggression against Nicaragua. Here is what Commander Arce said about statements by this official of the Reagan administration:

[Begin recording] She said that El Salvador is on the verge of anarchy, but this country is threatened because Reagan keeps arming it. She said: Terrorism, counting on contemporary Leninists and the Castroites to create a revolutionary situation, has reappeared in Guatemala. Therefore, one of the most urgent tasks of the Reagan administration should be to analyze and to review U.S. rapprochement with Latin America and the Caribbean. The United States is already getting closer to Latin America and the Caribbean.

Alexander Haig was saying yesterday that the Central American problem is part of a four-phased operation for a final communist takeover. In referring to Somoza's fall and the Sandinist takeover in Nicaragua, he said that the first phase was completed with the takeover of Nicaragua. The three following phases are a list of coups which would result in the takeovers of El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala in that order. He almost suggested that a confrontation with the Soviets is unavoidable and permanent. He said: The deep differences existing in several basic political, humanitarian and security-related areas will inevitably bring about a confrontation as long as these differences exist.

All the ideas forged during 1979 and 1980 in these institutions by those men who are now occupying government posts are becoming crystallized.

Nothing we are now witnessing, as we recently told the newsmen, I guess is casual. Behind every action is this way of thinking of the fascist elements that are taking over the decisionmaking spheres of the United States.

We obviously want to stress that regarding Nicaragua--where the reactionaries say that we have invented a ghost--they are recommending the economic destabilization of the country, support for certain local reactionaries and encouragement of military aggression against Nicaragua as the last part of this phase.

It has been proposed since last year that El Salvador has to be used as an excuse, and this they have already done.

In all these quotes I will allow myself to read to you, I want you to pay special attention to the idea of economic weakening prior to military aggression.

Here is a quote from Di Giovanni, a private agent of the U.S. State Department: The analysis of the characteristics of the societies and governments of the areas can be disregarded. The important thing is to face the increased Marxist penetration through Nicaragua and the Salvadoran revolutionary movement; that is, to outline an offensive strategy to overthrow the Sandinist government and to destroy the insurgent forces in El Salvador.

This continues: Despite its display of weapons, the Nicaraguan Government is still weak and can be overthrown through a determined, coordinated and concentrated effort. However, in order to help the Nicaraguans reach this goal, we must have a more realistic understanding of the Marxist threat in the region than that of the present administration.

They are now realizing this, if we go by Haig's statements.

I am still quoting: The United States should stop large-scale economic aid to the Sandinist government in order to send a clear message to Central American revolutionaries that the United States is not planning to support leftist movements in the region.

It seems that they want to start terminating the economic aid for us--at least they have suspended it.

[Arce resumes quoting] With the problems of regional security in our minds and above everything else, we should be less worried about the precise nature of this society and its government than about its inclinations and abilities to serve as a permanent source of support for Marxist revolutionaries in other parts of Central America. In a well-orchestrated program aimed against the Marxist-Sandinist government specifically, we should use our resources to support free unions, the church, the private sector, the independent political parties, the free press and those who truly defend human rights.

I don't know what human rights they are speaking about, when they call these rights trash. [as heard]

We should stop subsidizing a bankrupt government that is clearly planning to remain in power through its police and security forces and whose interests are hostile to those of its neighbors and of the United States. The longer this government remains in power the stronger its security apparatus will be and the harder it will to overthrow it.

Perhaps this is why the reactionaries are always attacking our security forces here.

Di Giovanni continues: The Nicaraguan democratic forces exist and are viable. The Catholic Church is influential. There are many political parties, ranging from the moderate left to the conservative right, which are united in their opposition to the Sandinists. The free democratic forces in Nicaragua include the Permanent Human Rights Commission headed by Jose Esteban Gonzalez. There is a free newspaper in Nicaragua influenced by a courageous youth named Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, son of the former owner of this newspaper. The free unions, the private sector and the Higher Council of Private Enterprise have a real influence because of their economic experience--and hear this very well, let the workers hear this--and the loyalty of the workers to the managers, which is more than their loyalty to the government.

Who knows these managers whom the workers like so much?

It will not be possible to remove the present communist government of Nicaragua, regardless of the degree of the people's discomfort, unless it is done through military action. There is no evidence that there are unhappy Nicaraguans. They could be supported in the armed struggle against the Sandinists by the former members of the National Guard who are in exile, but the people associate these military units with former chief of state Somoza, who was unpopular with a vast sector of the Nicaraguan people. With the killing of Somoza, the Nicaraguan people's acceptance of the guardsmen will depend on how well the guardsmen can overcome their reputation of corruption and brutality now without Somoza. [end quote]

The problem that we have is that the individuals who make these policies do not know anything about the Nicaraguan situation, but their policies become lines of actions of their government. This means that we are being threatened by irresponsible, crazy people. [end recording]

Further Report

PA220017 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 21 Mar 81

[Text] Imperialism already has its formula. We are facing the sponsors of a crazy warmongering imperialist policy. Commander Bayardo Arce, coordinator of the Political Commission of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN], unveiled all the aggressive plans the Reagan administration teams have prepared: the camps in Florida and Central America, the financing of tens of millions of dollars to arm rightist regimes in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and other countries, the cuts in food aid for Nicaragua, the conspiracy, the destabilization and open imperialist attempts to overthrow the popular power gained on 19 July.

We will now present a long report on Arce's lecture at the Central American University at the invitation of the Central American [as heard] Institute for Historical Research.

The tensions being experienced in Central America stem from the pressures U.S. imperialism is exerting on our country and our process. This statement by Commander Arce is the key to all the evils in Nicaragua as well as in the countries of the area.

Commander Arce started his lecture on U.S. policy in Central America with this statement. The lecture was held at the Daisy Rios auditorium at the university. Arce stressed that this lecture was aimed at the country's patriotic sectors which are truly interested in constructing this new nation so they will not become chips in a board game aimed at defeating our people's Sandinist revolution and the Central American revolutionary process.

If it hadn't been for the victory of our people and the increased aggressive policy of imperialism, the Big Stick policy--which seems to reappear in Yankee administrations--would only be discussed by politicians and treacherous businessmen and in the capitol in Washington, he noted.

Arce said Central America is now the most important region for the United States, is a topic of world concern, and is even a point on the agenda of East-West relations. It was an issue in the electoral propaganda of the new Reagan-fascist administration. This was Arce's description of the important and controversial nature of Central America: he said it is a topic of dangerous current importance; it is the object of a renewed policy of expansionism, domination and hegemony by U.S. politicians and capitalists. The imperialists believe they are the chosen people, the new Israel. They believe they have been made to dominate the rest of mankind.

Commander Arce quoted certain imperialist theoreticians to set the background for an explanation which makes everything clear: the evils of this continent stem from imperialist domination. Within this context, does this mean Latin America is condemned to suffer attacks and domination by the grace and virtue of the capitalists? The United States has believed that we are their territorial waters, their mare nostrum, their backyard and their vital area. All these terms, used in the past and present, have defined the intentions for many years of U.S. imperialism. The imperialists have said that the Caribbean is the Mediterranean of the United States. In that region they have had a cheap source of food in coffee, bananas, grain and beef. The importance of the Panama Canal, the enclaves on the continent and all those products of its domination is being threatened today in view of the advance of the peoples to their liberation. This is the most important challenge the imperialists are facing.

To confirm the history of domination and aggressiveness by U.S. imperialism, Commander Arce noted 180 belligerent interventions in 132 years carried out by imperialism.

Specific reasons for the attacks against our revolutionary process are that the most reactionary sectors of imperialism--the right, seeking Somoza and Robelo-style anti-communist alliances and expressing itself through organizations such as the Santa Fe group--have played everything against our people and the people of Central America. Other Reagan administration advisers (?are) the Heritage Foundation, CIA specialists in defense matters (?and) the American Enterprise Institute for the Study of Public Policy, dedicated to preparing free enterprise guidelines and policies.

There are a number of other organizations, plus the government apparatus. But what ideas have they given birth to? Commander Arce asked last night before some 600 persons. Presenting a series of documents extracted from imperialist publications, as well as some secret ones that have come into the hands of the revolution, Commander Arce unveiled all the aggressive and destabilizing maneuvers occurring both inside and outside the nation.

On an analysis of "the specter of Castro" by the Georgetown Center for Strategic Studies, Commander Arce affirmed: This is the way this institution sees things: that it is not valid for the United States to abstain from unilateral intervention or covert intervention in other nations or to respect sovereignty; that it is not valid for human rights to be respected or for this respect to be a factor in relations with Washington; that it is not valid that immigration should be broadened to make things easier for the victims of repression; that it is not valid for the United States to seek normal relations with Cuba; that it is not valid for the United States to negotiate a new canal treaty with Panama; that it is not valid to reduce its military aid programs; that it is not valid to stop training police and security forces.

A sea of terrorist activities, conspiracies, plans for taking advantage of the genocidal former Somozist guards who are training in the United States itself, support for domestic reaction, negation of human rights, repression and domination make up the panorama of war and intervention planned by the Yankee imperialists.

That is why what is happening in our free Nicaragua is no coincidence. That is why we must be ready.

Here is Commander Bayardo Arce referring to a strategic plan prepared by the so-called Santa Fe group: [begin recording] While Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras are given millions of dollars, planes, helicopters, advice and weapons, what happens in Nicaragua? PL-480, under which we were going to be loaned $9.6 million for wheat to make bread and give food to our people, is suspended. The disbursement of $15 million out of a $75 million loan approved for 1980, which was going to be used for construction of schools and social works, is suspended. Nicaraguan pilots are captured and we are forced to pay a fine of $350,000. In addition, two civilian-type helicopters we had bought to improve our military air transport were confiscated.

Human rights--a cultural and political concept the Carter administration used to intervene for political change in the nations of the hemisphere; a concept which has adversely affected the peace, stability and security of the region--must be abandoned.

The same study that recommends a strategy for this decade states that U.S. foreign policy must begin to counter the ideology of liberation the way it is used in Latin America. The role of the church in Latin America is vital to the concept of political freedom, it says. Unfortunately, Marxist-Leninist forces have used the church as a political weapon against private property and productive capitalism, infiltrating the religious community with ideas that are less Christian and more communist.

I recommend this study. The United States should take the initiative in the ideological sphere. It is essential to foster the creation of an educational system in Latin America that will emphasize the [word indistinct] intellectual tradition. Education must inculcate an idealism that must serve as a tool for the survival of the hemisphere. The purpose of war is the conquest of minds. [end recording]

Comment on Lecture

PA221306 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1800 GMT 21 Mar 81

[Station commentary]

[Text] The lecture given last night at the Daisy Rios auditorium of the Central American University by Companero Bayardo Arce Castano, commander of the revolution and member of the National Directorate of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN], was the most serious unmasking of the official interventionist activities of the Reagan government in Nicaraguan domestic affairs.

This lecture not only projected the U.S. administration to the people's world as the living image of international terrorism and reaffirmed the justness of our revolutionary vanguard's patriotic call to the Nicaraguan people to defend the fatherland and the revolution, it also established beyond a doubt the complicity of local self-styled democratic and reactionary minorities with the antinational and antipopular plans of international reaction.

Arce's lecture, based on statements made by the political representatives of the most aggressive and warmongering sectors of the U.S. Government and by the facts evident in the foreign policy of the Reagan administration, takes us to the imperialist nightmare of the beginning of the century.

Of course, the world is different now and it does not favor the hegemonic ambitions of domination held by obsolete and declining world capitalism. However, the situation implies serious threats to the peace and security of nations such as Sandino's, which are shaking off the imperialist yoke, and to the governments that reject imperialist propositions to those miserable republics that bother me so much, as old Roosevelt used to complain in his time. This Roosevelt was the promoter of the Big Stick policy.

Arce's lecture demonstrated beyond a doubt that neither the Nicaraguan people nor their popular Sandinist revolution are the reasons for the Reagan policy of aggression and destabilization against our process. It demonstrated that this is part of a strategy that was planned and outlined beforehand.

It is the continuity of the Roosevelt corollary to the Monroe Doctrine of the third decade of the last century, when rising Yankee imperialism longed for the economic domination of its Latin American backyard. This is a redrafting of the corollary at the historic moment when the democratic, progressive, national and liberating struggle of the people of our America threaten the last material basis of the American way of life, which has historically been supported by imperialist exploitation and oppression over the rest of the world.

Arce warned about the implementation of this general strategy of hegemony and domination when he stated: The fascist ideas of the U.S. leaders are being implemented. Perhaps there will be some who will say that all this is only academic theory, but this will not convince anyone, because we are seeing all this is real life, Arce added. No one can deny reality; only traitors, the self-styled and reactionary minorities of certain churches, the Higher Council of Private Enterprise, the human rights commission of Jose Esteban Gonzalez, the so-called independent labor unions, the news media that calls itself free and the so-called democratic parties can deny this. Those groups that have already been identified by our people as proimperialist tools of misinformation, provocation and internal destabilization; those who try to confuse the people of other nations to undermine the basis of international solidarity for the patriotic struggle of the Nicaraguans; those who want to take advantage of the political pluralism of the revolution for the benefit of their cheap interests and who have made the seizure of power their main objective in docile compliance with the imperialist plan to dominate our country; those who approve with their silence the economic and political aggressions that the Nicaraguans are enduring; those who are trying by all means to have the people of Sandino drop their guard in the face of a real threat of military aggression that may result in an attack against our sovereignty and our revolutionary achievements.

The patriotic answers of the Nicaraguans have been given: to increase production, to harvest the entire coffee and cotton crop and especially to strengthen an organized military defense with all the people participating in the Sandinist militia--the armed hand of our Sandinist armed forces--the guarantee and shield of our revolution.

STATUS OF LATIN AMERICAN RELATIONS REVIEWED

PA230345 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 13 Mar 81 p 4

[Excerpts] Revolutionary Commander Victor Tinoco, Foreign Ministry deputy for foreign policies, has revealed that during the tour made by Revolutionary Commander Miguel d'Escoto Brockman through Europe and North Africa, he met with various personalities and that these meetings had very positive results for Nicaragua.

Speaking of Nicaraguan relations with the rest of Latin America, Tinoco said that "Nicaragua logically tries to establish and maintain the best possible relations with the Latin American countries, not only because they are sister countries but also because of our geographic proximity and bhcause we have the same tradition, culture and other things in common."

Analyzing our specific relations with our Latin American brothers, he said that: "We all know of our exceptional relations with the Mexican Government. It is not only a political ally but also a brother."

"Our relations with all the other Central American countries are also well known. In spite of conflicts, our efforts to maintain good relations and communications with the Honduran Government are known by all," he said.

"We are confident that the Honduran Foreign Ministry shares this same willingness to maintain relations. We also know that our relations with the rest of the countries--Costa Rica, Panama, and others and in the Southern Cone [as published] with Venezuela--are very stable and fraternal." "The aid given by the Venezuelan Government to our government and people is really great and praiseworthy." he said.

"Our relations with Brazil," Tinoco continued, "are improving, and we have already appointed an ambassador to serve in Brazil. We are only waiting for approval by the Brazilian Government to our appointment."

Deputy Minister Tinoco also referred to Colombia, where he emphasized that our representationis making a great effort to improve the ties of friendship between the two countries. In regards to Ecuador, he said that Nicaragua has special relations with its government and people and that "in general we can say that our government has made great efforts in Latin American and the Caribbean and will continue making them to maintain a solid unity and brotherhood with all its peoples."

Regarding the U.S. suspension of the loan to purchase wheat, he said that "it is a violation of the human rights of our people, by the United States. This can be understood better if we realize that the United States is a large and powerful nation, with immense economic, natural and food resources, which is suspending food and aid to the Nicaraguans."

Tinoco added that the revolutionary government is maintaining its positions.

SANDINISM INCLUDES 'MIXED ECONOMY,' RAMIREZ NOTES

PA240310 Managua Radio Mundial in Spanish 1900 GMT 23 Mar 81

[Text] We must not fear the word socialism, Sergio Ramirez Mercado said in a press dispatch disseminated worldwide. The dispatch reported that the government junta member said this phrase in a Managua district.

We must have no fear of the word socialism, the dispatch says. The model of socialism promoted in Nicaragua by the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] is based on a regime of mixed economy and political pluralism, government junta member Sergio Ramirez Mercado said during a people's assembly in a Managua district, where he was asked about the kind of government and the model of society being implanted in the country by the Sandinist revolution.

We, Ramirez Mercado said, are heading toward a tomorrow, very different from the Somozist yesterday which several sectors, who are trying to confuse Nicaraguans, would like to see return. We should have no fear of the word socialism. We present this word honestly and with a revolutionary spirit, in opposition to the word capitalism. This is a mixed economy regime where honest producers will have guarantees within our revolutionary laws.

He emphasized that rules of the game promoted by the Sandinist revolution are for the common good, for the good of the great Nicaraguan majorities.

PASTORA REAFFIRMS NEED FOR REVOLUTIONARY SACRIFICE

PA231956 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Mar 81

[Text] Today's problems are small in comparison with the gigantic work of the Sandinist people's revolution, said Brigade Commander Eden Pastora, national chief of the militias.

Pastora was picking cotton this weekend at Las Castillas Estate, in the Hato Grande region, La Ceiba municipality, Leon Department. He familiarized himself with the situation and the fighting spirit of the inhabitants of Ciudad Sandino who are working on the state, not only the members of the reserve batallion, but also their relatives.

Before saying farewell yesterday to members of Reserve Battalion 5011 of the Sandinist People's Militias and the relatives of the heroic fighters of Ciudad Sandino who are struggling to raise production, Commander Pastora said:

[Begin recording] [In progress]...a better man, a new society, a new system of government that in the future will guarantee health centers, clinics, hospitals, child care centers, schools, universities, housing, in other words a system of government that will guarantee us a better life in the future.

However, let us understand clearly, let us not fool ourselves with the thought that this will be obtained with a magic wand, that one will be able to say, let this be done, and it will be done. These things are achieved through tenacity, sacrifice, sweat, stoicism. Our people are virile, brave and hard-working and they are fighters.

Our people lack only one thing: [words indistinct] patience and the realization that the revolution cannot be completed in 2 years, and also that neither the North Americans nor the Russians will come to carry out our revolution. No one in any country, no government is going to come here and solve our problems. We Nicaraguans will have to solve our problems through sacrifices like the one that we are making here.

Who is going to harvest our cotton? Who is going to harvest our coffee? Who is going to make our land produce? We Nicaraguans.

The present times are difficult, critical. Anyone who tells you that the revolution comes from heaven, that it is a gift of the angels, is lying to you. The revolution is difficult. It is work, it is sacrifice and it is total dedication. It can be achieved only one way: with love for our people, loving the people, forgetting personal problems and looking at the general problems and seeking solutions to the collective problems. Only in this way will Nicaraguans be able to carry out our revolution. We are certain that we will do this, because we are setting the example here in this cotton field and in all the cotton fields where Nicaraguans are picking cotton, where the Sandinist People's Army, the Sandinist police, the Sandinist People's Militias and the reserve battallions are present.

This is our battle today, and if tomorrow we are obliged to go into a war of bullets, to a war of lead, to a war of rifles, we will go with dignity, with pride, with valor, with love for our country, with integrity, with revolutionary consciences, with firmness and with the determination that: a free fatherland [audience shouts: or death]; fatherland or death [audience shouts: we will win]. [end recording]

DPRK MISSION VISIT TO STRENGTHEN TRADE RELATIONS

PA181512 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 17 Mar 81

[Text] Nicaragua and the DPRK will strengthen their commercial relations. This is the purpose of the visit of a Korean mission which will be in Nicaragua for 5 days.

Deputy Minister of Planning Luis Enrique Figueroa provides details:

[Begin recording] Basically, an attempt is being made to strengthen commercial, political and economic relations between the Korean and Nicaraguan revolutions. We are explaining the situation of our economy, the achievements we have made in the period following the revolutionary victory and the problems that we are facing because of the economic structure that we have inherited, as well as because of problems that are emerging because of the economic crisis that exists in the world.

With our companeros of the DPRK, we are attempting to determine the main areas in which we can cooperate namely, the metalworking, industrial and agricultural areas. We might even establish relations of some kind in the area of foreign trade. We seek to export some of our traditional products, while the DPRK could possibly sell us fertilizer, machinery and some of their main export products. [end recording]

REPORTAGE ON THE FSLN DELEGATION'S VISIT TO LAOS

For reportage on the visit of Commander of the Revolution Humberto Ortega and his Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] delegation to Laos from 17 to 21 March 1981, see the Laos section of the 20 March issue of the Asia & Pacific DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

BRIEFS

TRADE WITH COSTA RICA--Orlando Solorzano, director of integration of the Foreign Trade Ministry, has reported that in 1980, Nicaraguan exports to Costa Rica amounted to $34.4 million, while imports amounted to $105.4 million. He said that last year Nicaragua mainly exported to Costa Rica $18 million worth of chemical products for industry and agriculture, $5.7 million worth of food products and $3.7 million worth of construction materials. Nicaragua mainly imported from Costa Rica $41 million worth of consumer goods, $37 million worth of raw material for industry and $12 million worth of construction materials. [Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 Mar 81 PA]

CST PROMOTION OF MILITIAS--The Sandinist Workers Federation [CST] has appointed Companero Alejandro Arauz its official in charge of the Sandinist People's Militias. Arauz will be permanently in touch with the national chief of the militias. The leadership of the workers' unions will be responsible for the recruitment of militias members. [Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1800 GMT 13 Mar 81 PA]

HAVANA TV INTERVIEWS ECUADOREAN EMBASSY ASSAILANTS

FL201319 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0130 GMT 20 Mar 81

[Cuban TV press conference with three principals in Ecuadorean Embassy takeover; in Havana, date not given]

[Text] [Ovidio Cabrera, of National Television News] Is your name Rolando Felix Camejo Luaces?

[Camejo] Yes.

[Cabrera] What did you do before you were arrested?

[Camejo] I was doing my compulsory military service.

[Cabrera] Did you know Mr Mascarenhas [Portuguese charge d'affaires]?

[Camejo] Yes.

[Cabrera] When did you meet him? Who introduced you?

[Camejo] Rafael Delgado.

[Cabrera] Rafael Delgado. How often did you meet Mascarenhas? Under what circumstances?

[Camejo] Many times. Over 10 times.

[Cabrera] And when did you meet him? A long time ago? Recently?

[Camejo] Approximately 1 year ago. I am a mechanic and met him through Rafael when I repaired his car.

[Carlos Mora Herman, of PRENSA LATINA] Camejo Luaces, did you speak or recall speaking with Mascarenhas about the means to leave the country?

[Camejo] Yes.

[Mora Herman] How did you come to talk about it?

[Camejo] At the time of the events at the Peruvian Embassy, I asked him how I could leave the country. I asked him how to go about getting into the embassy. He said not to do it, that there was no way he could get there with me. Shortly afterwards, around October, Rafael talked to me about the Ecuadorean Embassy by way of him [presumably Mascarenhas].

[Mora Herman] What did you know about Mascarenhas' help in all these plans?

[Camejo] Well, he did not confide in me; he said I was too new, but Rafael, who did confide in me and told me things, told me that he was going to help us once we were inside the embassy--food, whatever we might need.

[Mora Herman] Did Rafael tell you anything about Mascarenhas' help?

[Camejo] Yes.

[Marta Rojas, of GRANMA] One question. What did Mascarenhas (?say) about the suitability of the Ecuadorean Embassy for this action?

[Camejo] He reasoned that since it was located on the corner from his house, the view was better, and he had more control because there was just one lookout post. Asking around, he found out that it observed asylum conventions. He said that it was better because anything that happened, it was closer to his house, in case he could help in any way.

[Rojas] How many times did you try to enter the embassy? Once or more?

[Camejo] Two more times.

[Rojas] What happened?

[Camejo] Those involved failed us. They lost their nerve when they reached the guard post.

[Rojas] And how did you finally manage?

[Camejo] Mascarenhas said we should get men, not cowards, after the second attempt. He was watching the second attempt from his home.

[Rojas] Very well.

[Cabrera] What did Mascarenhas tell you to do inside the embassy once you got there?

[Camejo] He gave us a list of telephone numbers of all the embassies of capitalist countries, so that we would be able to phone them. He separately gave (Rudy) his telephone number so he could call him too. We were to say that a group of 31 Cubans led by Capt Romulo Delgado--that's (Rudy)--who was a former member of the rebel army, had broken into the Ecuadorean Embassy.

[Cabrera] Of course this was false.

[Camejo] Yes. Mascarenhas ordered us to.

[Cabrera] Information provided by Mascarenhas. Who did you have to call, Mascarenhas or another diplomat?

[Camejo] All embassies. He was the only diplomat.

[Cabrera] Specifically him.

[Camejo] That we were inside.

[Cabrera] Those were Mascarenhas' specific instructions. Well, what did Mascarenhas have to do himself?

[Camejo] Well, as far as I know, he said that once we were inside we should call him for any help. He also had a journalist from FRANCE-PRESSE...

[Cabrera] Where? Near the embassy?

[Camejo] Yes, near the embassy when we were just about to enter.

[Cabrera] So, he had already alerted several journalists. Or was it just one journalist?

[Camejo] No, just one journalist from FRANCE-PRESSE.

[Mora Herman] Tell us, what sort of weapons did you have for the embassy occupation?

[Camejo] We had a pistol, a revolver, a rifle and a grenade.

[Mora Herman] Could you tell us where you got these weapons? Where did these weapons come from? Where were they?

[Camejo] (Rudy) brought the revolver and the rifle. The pistol belonged to Rafael. I saw a pistol like it once in the trunk of Mascarenhas' car. I cannot tell you it is the same one, but it was similar to the pistol. I supplied the grenade.

[Mora Herman] Do you know of Mr Mascarenhas at any time talking about an attempt against the life of President Fidel Castro?

[Camejo] Well, only through (Rudy), because as I told you before, he did not confide in me. He did ask why, if we were Cubans and wanted to leave the country--why did not we make an attempt against the life of Fidel either at his home or anywhere else.

[Mora Herman] Did Mascarenhas say that? Who did he tell this to?

[Camejo] To Rafael and (Rudy). He did not confide in me.

[Rojas] In your conversations with Mascarenhas, did he ever ask you for information on military matters?

[Camejo] Yes. He asked me several times.

[Rojas] What kind of questions?

[Camejo] When I got back from some maneuvers he asked me where they were held. I told him where, near Pinar del Rio. He asked whether we used blanks or real bullets. I told him we used both. He asked what kind of weaponry we used. I told him what we used, cannons, antiaircraft weapons, mortars, tanks, infantry. He asked about what I did. I told him that I was a mechanic. He asked me about officers, what kind of officers. I told him lieutenant colonels, colonels, majors, captains, lieutenants.

[Rojas] So he wanted to know location, weapons used, officers involved. Of course, his diplomatic position did not call for investigating these kinds of things. Why would he do it?

[Camejo] Well, I personally came to realize that he works for the CIA, because a diplomat has no need to know these things. At the time, I answered his questions on the maneuvers as part of the conversation, but now I realize that he either works for the CIA or gives it information.

[Unidentified moderator] Now, there are some things that are not very clear, that I would like to make clearer. Were you the one who hit the guard at the door of the Ecuadorean Embassy?

[Camejo] Yes, Dr Mascarenhas said we had to assault the guard so there would be a political problem.

[Moderator] What were you thinking about before hitting him on the head? What did you plan on doing?

[Camejo] No, we just wanted to get him out of the way and go in. Take his weapon and go in. He said that we had to hit him over the head so that there would be a political problem.

[Moderator] That is, injure the comrade from the Interior Ministry to create a political problem.

[Camejo] That was the only way to get asylum.

[Rojas] What is your name, please?

[Pascual Delgado] My name is Pascual Ovidio Delgado Fernandez.

[Rojas] What did you do before your arrest? You were one of the persons at the Ecuadorean Embassy, is that right?

[P. Delgado] Yes.

[Rojas] What did you do before your arrest?

[P. Delgado] I was the administrator of a shop.

[Rojas] How did the idea of entering the embassy come to you?

[P. Delgado] How?

[Rojas] Yes.

[P. Delgado] The idea came from our group.

[Rojas] How did you get in?

[P. Delgado] How did we get in? By asking around and by means of certain information given to us.

[Rojas] I see. Did anyone help you getting this information? Did anyone help you with the information?

[P. Delgado] Well, a diplomat who visited our house helped us in these efforts.

[Rojas] Don't you know his nationality?

[P. Delgado] Portuguese.

[Mora Herman] What is the diplomat's name?

[P. Delgado] I know his surname, Mascarenhas, Dr Mascarenhas.

[Cabrera] Do you know what the doctor's help might have been?

[P. Delgado] Well, the doctor's help consisted in giving us the telephone numbers, the embassy's business hours...

[Cabrera] Whose telephone numbers?

[P. Delgado] The telephone numbers of the embassy.

[Cabrera] And of other embassies as well?

[P. Delgado] Other embassies. The hours when the ambassador may be in. Specifically, when he would be in so we could carry out the action.

[Moderator] I would like to say something before going on to Marta. I concerns the information supplied by Mascarenhas. Could we go into that? What kind of information did he provide to facilitate the attack on the Ecuadorean Embassy?

[P. Delgado] He gave that information mainly to (Rudy) and (Rollie). Directly to them.

[Moderator] Yes, but what kind of information?

[P. Delgado] For example, the time the diplomats might be in. What day they were available, because sometimes we went by and the diplomat was not in or the three were not all in at the same time. That is what we were after, that all personnel were in.

[Moderator] In other words...

[P. Delgado] That the ambassador, the consul and the counselor were in all at the same time.

[Moderator] How would you describe Mascarenhas' help in seizing the embassy?

[P. Delgado] It was useful because he gave us all of the information, all the necessary information.

[Mora Herman] Could you tell us your name?

[Romulo Delgado] Romulo Juan Delgado Fernandez.

[Mora Herman] When were you arrested?

[R. Delgado] I was arrested at the Ecuadorean Embassy.

[Mora Herman] But when?

[R. Delgado] After we were taken out of the embassy.

[Mora Herman] Why did you choose the Ecuadorean Embassy?

[R. Delgado] The Ecuadorean Embassy was chosen for three reasons. Firstly, because of the relations between Cuba and Ecuador, which were very good. Secondly, it was chosen because the ambassador was a very responsible and respected person here in Cuba; he had very good relations with the government. Thirdly, because of its easy accessibility.

[Rojas] Delgado, how did you meet Mascarenhas?

[R. Delgado] I met Mascarenhas, when he first came to Cuba, through my brother and my sister-in-law. He is my sister-in-law's godfather.

[Rojas] Approximately how long ago?

[R. Delgado] About 3 years.

[Rojas] How were your relations with Mascarenhas?

[R. Delgado] Very good.

[Rojas] What did you call him?

[R. Delgado] I nicknamed him "El Indio" ["The Indian"].

[Rojas] What?

[R. Delgado] "El Indio." (?They call him) "El Indio."

[Rojas] What information did Mascarenhas give you in connection with the Ecuadorean Embassy and your plans to seize it. Specifically, what was the most valuable information he gave you?

[R. Delgado] Well, the telephone numbers of the various embassies we had to call, identification of cars, license plate numbers, car make. Well, in sum, almost everything.

[Rojas] He lived nearby.

[R. Delgado] He lived near the embassy. On the corner.

[Rojas] He could see everything, mmh?

[R. Delgado] Everything.

[Rojas] What about the way you were later to publicize events there? I understand there is a foreign journalist involved. Did Mascarenhas give you that information too, how the journalist would call, how you could get in touch with him, and so forth?

[R. Delgado] We knew that there was a journalist in the plans. I believe from FRANCE-PRESSE. As soon as it was learned that day that we had gotten into the embassy, Mascarenhas would contact him, and he in turn would contact us.

[Rojas] Is that how it happened?

[R. Delgado] Yes. He called.

[Cabrera] What other means to leave the country did you discuss with Mascarenhas?

[R. Delgado] Well, I discussed with him the kidnapping of Ambassador Perez Concha. I asked him where he lived. He told me he lived at the Hotel Capri. Then he told me he did not like the idea. That keeping him in the hotel could be very dangerous that I should think it over but that he did not like the idea. So I proposed to him paying money to some diplomat for a good word at the embassy. He said no; he had no connections there, that he was going to talk to some man, he never told me his name. The next day he told me that the man had said he had no connections there either. He had no connections. Then I proposed kidnapping him and hiding my wife and children in the trunk of his car--(Rollie) too--but he said that was too dangerous, because they could kill him and us, say that we had killed him and the government had had to kill us. So he did not approve of that idea either.

[Cabrera] What embassy did you call first when you got into the embassy?

[R. Delgado] The Embassies of Venezuela, Peru, the U.S. interest section, Colombia, Panama, The Netherlands, the FRG--well, the list was very long, I don't remember too well right now, there were several embassies, (?about 12).

[Cabrera] How about Portugal's?

[R. Delgado] Portugal's too.

[Cabrera] The 22-caliber pistol that you used in the attack, the break-in at the embassy of Ecuador--was it ever in Mascarenhas' hands?

[R. Delgado] Yes, Mascarenhas had it for a few days.

[Moderator] How did you learn of Perez Concha's address?

[R. Delgado] In my conversation with Mascarenhas whether it would be more feasible to kidnap the ambassador to avoid bloodshed, I asked him the ambassador's address. He told me he lived at the Hotel Capri.

[Moderator] In other words, he gave you Perez Concha's address.

[R. Delgado] Yes. Why, I didn't even know him. I had never met him because I was not in on the plans from the very beginning. I learned who the ambassador was when I went to the Capri, through (Mario) and some guys who were also involved, and that is how I learned who Perez Concha was. I saw him for the first time.

[Moderator] Why did Mascarenhas give you Perez Concha's address?

[R. Delgado] During the conversation, I asked him his opinion, what he thought about kidnaping the ambassador instead.

[Moderator] I would like to go back to the information Mascarenhas gave you in relation to the Ecuadorean Embassy. What did this information consist of?

[R. Delgado] About our leaving the country?

[Moderator] Yes.

[R. Delgado] Yes, it was a logical choice because it was an embassy that had had no problems. The Embassies of Peru, Colombia, Venezuela had had problems. There were people already in.

[Moderator] Who talked to you about this?

[R. Delgado] Mascarenhas.

[Moderator] What other information did Mascarenhas give you in relation to the embassy?

[R. Delgado] The Ecuadorean Embassy?

[Moderator] Yes.

[R. Delgado] He said it would be the easiest one, because of the way the government got along with Ecuador and how the ambassador got along with the Cuban Government.

[Mora Herman] A question. At which meeting with Mascarenhas did you talk about the physical elimination of President Fidel Castro?

[R. Delgado] At one of the meetings with Rafael, my brother, (Rudy) and myself, Mascarenhas said that all Cubans wanted to leave here, that so many Cubans had left, why didn't we kill Fidel? Then I told him that we were not about to do such a thing, that no one in the world could kill Fidel. Everyone in the world has tried to kill him, and they have failed in all attempts.

[Moderator] Well, there is a matter I would like to ask you about. Do you think that the Ecuadorean Embassy could have been seized without Mascarenhas' help?

[R. Delgado] I do not think so. It was his help that made our break-in successful.

[Moderator] Why? Why do you believe that the embassy could not have been taken without his help?

[R. Delgado] Because of all the information he gave us.

[Moderator] Well, any more questions, comrades? None. Before we conclude this press conference, dear viewers, we would like to hear Col Ramiro (Mayans), from the Interior Ministry's State Security directorate.

[(Mayans)] A few days ago, the Cuban Foreign Ministry summoned the diplomatic corps accredited to the country to inform them of the events at the Ecuadorean Embassy. In his report, the vice minister of foreign relations, Comrade Ricardo Alarcon, gave details on the behavior of diplomat Francisco de Sales Mascarenhas, the Portuguese charge d'affaires in Cuba. Considering public interest in these events, the Interior Ministry's State Security Directorate has made three of the persons arrested involved in these events available to the press. From their statements, it is evident that diplomat Mascarenhas did not only provide information, but also encouraged and incited the commission of these actions. In addition, this diplomat and the accused held talks concerning the possibility of making an attempt on the life of the commander in chief.

Many of the persons detained in connection with these events have criminal records, were unemployed, and some were fleeing revolutionary justice at the time of the events.

On the basis of their statements and the investigations conducted, we have gathered enough evidence to prove the complicity and the participation of diplomat Mascarenhas in the events and his close ties with a CIA official who is working against Cuba. On the basis of the investigations conducted and the statements of the detained persons, we have reached the conclusion that the Central Intelligence Agency organized this aggressive provocation against our country with a view to hamper diplomatic relations with Ecuador, create a sense of insecurity among the diplomatic corps in Havana and orchestrate a diversionist campaign against the revolution.

CASTRO CONDEMNS APARTHEID IN MESSAGE TO WALDHEIM

FL210146 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 21 Mar 81

[Text] On the occasion of the International Day for Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro has sent a message to UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim reaffirming Cuba's complete identification with the just struggle of the world's people oppressed by different forms of domination, exploitation and racial discrimination generated by imperialism and colonialism.

The message condemns the apartheid system that the Pretoria government has imposed on the South African people and also maintains in Namibia, which world public opinion calls a high crime against humanity. It denounces the intensification of internal repression and the acts of aggression against the frontline states.

Fidel's message to Waldheim recalls the nonaligned countries' firm condemnation of apartheid as underscored at the New Delhi conference. It also rejects all maneuvers designed to perpetuate control by the racist white minority.

PRESIDENT CASTRO RECEIVES NICARAGUAN DELEGATION

FL211251 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 21 Mar 81

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has received the high-level delegation of the revolutionary government of Nicaragua headed by Commander of the Revolution Jaime Wheelock Roman, minister of agricultural development and agrarian reform and member of the Political Committee of the National Directorate of the Sandinist National Liberation Front, which visited our country from 17 to 20 March.

During the talks, various aspects of the relations between the two countries dealing with economic cooperation were discussed. In addition, the Nicaraguan delegation met with Dr Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, Sugar Industry Minister Diocles Torralba, Food Industry Minister Alejandro Roca and officials of the Ministry of Agriculture and of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation.

As a result of these talks and taking into consideration the work carried out to date by the Cuban and Nicaraguan technicians, a memorandum of intention was signed by Comdr Jaime Wheelock and Dr Carlos Rafael Rodriguez which provides for the construction in Nicaragua of an agroindustrial center with a daily grinding capability of approximately 7,000 tons.

These negotiations will continue in Nicaragua this month on the occasion of the second meeting of the Cuba-Nicaragua Intergovernmental Committee for Economic Cooperation.

CARICOM TO EXAMINE POINTS IN AGREEMENT ON BELIZE

FL202103 Bridgetown CANA in English 2045 GMT 20 Mar 81

[Irvine Reid dispatch]

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, 20 Mar, (CANA)--Caribbean Community (CARICOM) member governments have welcomed a wide-ranging agreement between Guatemala and Britain that would pave the way for the independence of Belize, the last British colony in Central America, Barbados Foreign Minister Henry Forde has said here.

But the CARICOM governments have pointed out that there are some "tricky" points in the agreement which needed to be detailed, Forde told reporters last night on his return from the special foreign ministers conference that discussed the accord in Belize.

The points relate to Belize's maritime rights and Guatemalan access to the Caribbean Sea through Belizean territory--and to the entire question of the Law of the Sea, Forde explained. The meeting was called by the CARICOM Secretariat at the request of Belizean Premier George Price to discuss the Anglo-Guatemalan agreement under which the Guatemalans are prepared to give up their century-old territorial claim to the neighboring colony in return for a number of concessions, including access to Belizean ports.

The two days of discussions were attended by foreign ministers from the regional grouping who have been lobbying for a solution to the dispute, which has been holding up Belize request for independence from Britain, and one that involves no ceding of Belizean land to Guatemala.

"All" the Caribbean foreign ministers and myself have expressed satisfaction over the fact that they have arrived at at least broad terms of agreement which can form the basis of more detailed settlement of Belizean question, Forde said. We have expressed our support with the fact that for the first time Guatemala recognizes the rights of Belize to exist as an independent state, and as an integral party of Central America within its existing and traditional frontiers, I think that's a major advance in the dispute.

Forde said it is very necessary at this time that we give Belize not only moral and diplomatic support but practical support as well, because the terms which have been agreed are broad heads, and the details must now be worked out in a definitive way so as not to undermine any of the broad heads of the agreement. There are many tricky problems, particularly pertaining to the Law of the Sea, the rights of Belize to Guatemala. Forde said this called for very thorough knowledge of the Law of the Sea problem.

The Barbados minister said CARICOM governments had agreed to give Belize access to their experts in Law of the Sea matters. In addition, we have informed Belize that we would be prepared to make available some of our expertise in international relations in general, he told the Barbados press.

Forde was one of the persons who spearheaded the Caribbean lobby for Belizean independence, which claimed with the Organization of American States (OAS) and the United Nations supporting calls for the colony's independence by year-end--whether or not Guatemala had decided to abandon its territorial claim.

Commenting on the treaty, Forde added: We considered the options which were now open to us to keep the Belizean question before the international public to ensure that continued support will be given to Belize until all of the treaty has been signed and also, most importantly, to ensure that the treaty means what it says and that Belize would be able to go forward without the threat of war.

He continued: I think it is important that for the future there should be some international security for Belize's position.

He did take the opportunity, of course, to assure the Belizean Government that the CARICOM countries would be very happy indeed to sponsor Belize for membership in the United Nations, the Organization of American States, and such other international agencies and regional institutions that Belize may be interested in joining.

ARUBA

GRENADA'S BISHOP TO ATTEND PARTY CONFERENCE

FL182337 St Georges Domestic Service in English 2300 GMT 18 Mar 81

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Maurice Bishop left the island today at the head of an official delegation to Aruba where he will give the feature address at the conference of the ruling party in that country. The address will focus on problems of small and specially disadvantaged states. The conference is organized jointly by the People's Electoral Movement and Socialist International and is planned to commemorate the third anniversary of the party. FRG [Radio Free Grenada] staffer (Lou Smith) is also traveling along with the delegation and he filed the following report:

[Begin recording] The prime minister and his party arrived at Queen (?Beatrice) Airport just after 3 o'clock this afternoon following a (?2 hour and 50 minute) flight [words indistinct] Grenada. The prime minister and his party were greeted by Betico Croes, head of the MEP, the People's Electoral Movement here in Aruba, and [words indistinct]. At about this time, Brother Bishop, Brother Unison [Whiteman, minister of agriculture] and [name indistinct] Williams and other members of the Grenada delegation are attending the formal opening of the conference at the (?Sheraton) Hotel.

I am (Lou Smith) Radio Free Grenada News, from Oranjestad, Aruba. [end recording]

Delegations attending the conference include representatives of the liberation forces in El Salvador, popular movements in Chile, former Jamaican prime minister Michael Manley, Carlos Andres Perez--the former Venezuelan president--and Henry Forde, minister of foreign affairs in the Barbados Government. The conference ends on Saturday.

BARBADOS

BUSINESSMEN OFF TO JAMAICA ON TRADE MISSION

FL202112 Bridgetown CANA in English 2057 GMT 20 Mar 81

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, 20 Mar (CANA)--A 20 member delegation of Barbados manufacturers and officials will be leaving the island on Sunday for a 1-week trade mission to Jamaica, it has been announced here.

The delegation will be headed by Duncan Turney, chairman of the Export Promotion Corporation (EPC), and will comprise representatives from 17 Barbadian manufacturing concerns, the Barbados Central Bank and Caribbean Air Cargo (CARICARGO), a cargo enterprise jointly owned by the Governments of Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago.

The mission organized by the corporation and the Barbados Manufacturers Association will be a selling one, and EPC Assistant Chairman Vanburn Gaskin said he anticipated a good response since there is a resurgence in the country. He noted that Barbadian businessmen no longer experienced problems in obtaining import licenses and payments for goods shipped to Jamaica. Another mission, he noted, is expected to return to Jamaica in September.

The Central Bank officials will be looking after the financial aspects, while CARICARGO will be looking after the shipment of cargo. The Barbadians are due back home on March 25. The mission to Jamaica will be followed by a Barbadian trade exhibition for Trinidad and Tobago which is expected to run from May 22 to 27 in Port-of-Spain.

DOMINICA

DETAINEES ACCUSED OF PLOTTING HUNGER STRIKE

FL201803 Bridgetown CANA in English 1752 GMT 20 Mar 81

[Excerpt] Roseau, Dominica, 20 Mar (CANA)--Senior soldiers and civilians accused of plotting a coup against the Dominica Government have gone on a hunger strike in prison, the state-owned radio said today.

The detainees are ex-prime minister Patrick John, Army Commander Maj Frederick Newton, Army Capt Malcolm Reid, former director of public broadcasting and information Dennis Joseph, and Julian David, an executive member of John's Dominica Labor Party.

Their action is said to be in protest against the quality of food being given them. The authorities have refused permission for food to be brought by relatives of the detainees. The five were detained following allegations that they were involved in a plot to overthrown the elected government of Prime Minister Eugenia Charles on 14 March.

BRIEFS

FRENCH SHIP IN PORT--Roseau, Dominica, 23 Mar, (CANA)--A French navy vessel the "Dentrecasteaux", is now in the Dominica port on a one-week official visit. A Dominica port authority official said that the vessel will be involved in certain marine work including measuring the depths of various areas in the Dominica-Martinique Channel. The ship is under the command of Colonel E. Pilvain who has already paid courtesy calls on government officials. It has a compliment of 30 officers and 50 seamen. [Text] [Bridgetown CANA in English 1846 GMT 23 Mar 81 FL]

GRENADA

GRENADA-CUBA FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY CONDEMNS U.S.

FL181757 Bridgetown CANA in English 1743 GMT 18 Mar 81

[Text] St Georges, Grenada, 18 Mar (CANA)--Grenada, acidly critical of the United States Government in recent months, has launched another verbal assault this time over the situation in El Salvador.

A statement from the Grenada-Cuba FriendshipSociety has condemned Washington for what it said were threats from the Reagan administration against Cuba, following allegations that the Castro regime was supplying arms to the Central American republic.

In El Salvador, leftist guerrillas are battling the civilian-military junta which has American support and has been getting military and other assistance from the United States.

Cuba is said to be sending arms to the guerrillas. But the Grenada-Cuba Friendship Society said the charge was just a smokescreen designed to draw international opinion away from supporting the guerrillas.

"It attempts to create a firm justification for the vastly increased U.S. arms shipments to the military dictatorship of El Salvador and for already planned American military intervention in the domestic affairs of the Salvadorean people."

The friendship society said the U.S. allegation about Havana supplying arms was "another act of aggression by Washington against the Cuban people, who in spite of 20 years of U.S. hostility remained committeed to detente, respect for sovereignty and noninterference in other countries' affairs."

The statement said that it was American imperialism, not Cuba, which shows disrespect for the right of the Salvadoran people to fight for liberation from Fascism.

"It is imperialism, not Cuba, that is seeking to hold back the advances of the people, and which seeks to penalize popular and democratic governments and prop up antipeople and repressive dictatorships."

CUBANS ARRIVE FOR TECHNICAL COOPERATION TALKS

FL201940 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1926 GMT 20 Mar 81

[Text] Nivaldo Herrera, president of the Cuban Radio and Television Institute [ICRT], today arrived in St Georges to hold talks with Grenadian officials on areas of possible technical cooperation. Herrera and his four-member delegation were received yesterday [as heard] at Pearl Airport in St Andrew by the permanent secretary of the Grenadian Information Ministry, (Calvin Kamaut Barnett).

Official talks began this morning and they will conclude tonight with the signing of an agreement in the office of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, a spokesman of the Grenadian side reported. The Cuban-Grenadian talks fall within the framework of resolutions of the Nonaligned Countries Movement's sixth summit conference on the need to strengthen information cooperation among members of the movement.

BRIEFS

BRAZILIAN PLANE FOR GRENADA--The People's Revolutionary Government [PRG], through the assistance of the Government of Brazil, has finalized the purchasing of a new 18-seater aircraft. The aircraft, which is expected to significantly improve the quality of air transport between Barbados, Grenada and Trinidad and Tobago, will arrive here on Friday. The Brazilian-made aircraft will be leased to the regional carrier LIAT which will operate the aircraft on behalf of the PRG. The purchase of the aircraft is also expected to give a much needed boost to the tourist industry against the background of the massive improvements in construction of the international airport. [Excerpt] [St Georges Domestic Service in English 2300 GMT 17 Mar 81 FL]

CZECHOSLOVAKIA-GRENADA RADIO COOPERATION--The director general of Czechoslovakia Radio, Jan Risko, says he wants greater cooperation between his station and Radio Free Grenada [RFG]. Mr Risko's wishes are contained in a message sent to the manager of Radio Free Grenada on the occasion of the second anniversary of Grenada's people's revolution. Czechoslovakia Radio is one of the stations from which RFG has been seeking technical assistance. [Text] [St Georges Domestic Service in English 2300 GMT 17 Mar 81 FL]

GRENADIANS' RETURN FROM VENEZUELA--St Georges, Grenada, 19 Mar (CANA)--A three member Grenada delegation has returned home at the end of a familiarization trip to Venezuela to study energy systems in the oil-rich South American republic. During the 1-week Venezuelan sponsored trip, the Grenadians visited several oil installations and met with officials in Caracas from the Ministry of Energy and Mines. Issues dealt with included prospective energy consumption and programs aimed at developing alternative energy sources. [Excerpt] [Bridgetown CANA in English 2218 GMT 19 Mar 81 FL]

GRENADIAN AIRPORT CONSTRUCTION--St Georges, Grenada, 19 Mar (CANA)--Work on the first 500 feet of runway for Grenada's new international airport at Point Salines is expected to be completed by yearend, according to a government release here. "The runway when half way completed will be 5,000 feet long and 150 feet wide and will allow for night landing," the release said. The 50-million dollar (U.S.) airport, which will eventually have a 9,000 foot runway, is targetted for completion by 1983. The project is being undertaken with assistance from the Governments of Cuba and Venezuela. [Text] [Bridgetown CANA in English 2226 GMT 19 Mar 81 FL]

JAMAICA

SEAGA ANNOUNCES FINANCIAL PROBLEMS, MEASURES

Public, Private Sector Debts

FL191921 Bridgetown CANA in English 1910 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, 19 Mar (CANA)--More than 200 million dollars (J) (1 JCA dollar; 56 cents US) is owed to government by both the public and private sectors, mainly for utilities and taxes and the administration is going on a collection drive, Prime Minister Edward Seaga has said. Mr Seaga told Parliament last night that 52.6 million dollars of the debt was owed by the public sector while the private sector had an outstanding bill of 155.5 million dollars. If the government could collect this outstanding 208 million dollars, the prime minister said, it had no intention of imposing new tax measures in the 1981-82 budget, which is expected to go to Parliament next month.

Among the outstanding bills, Mr Seaga explained, was 35.7 million dollars to the Jamaica Public Service Company, the power suppliers, 15.3 million dollars to the National Water Commission, 15 million dollars to the National Insurance Scheme and 19 million dollars to the National Housing Trust. There was 85.2 million dollars outstanding to the Income Tax Department, he added, and 52 million to the Collector General's office.

The prime minister, who also holds the finance portfolio, said part of the reason for the arrears was a breakdown in managemnent in government departments under the former Michael Manley administration.

Forthcoming Agreement With IMF

FL181857 Bridgetown CANA in English 1853 GMT 18 Mar 81

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, 18 Mar (CANA)--Jamaica is now concluding its latest balance of payments support agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the details will go before Parliament within the next 2 weeks, Prime Minister Edard Seaga has told the House of Representatives.

Jamaica, under the former Michael Manley government, had an agreement with the IMF from mid-1977 to early last year, when Manley's People's National Party (PNP) broke negotiations for further funding.

At the time the government charged that the funds conditions--curbs in government spending, devaluations, relaxation of price control and wage guidelines--were unsuited to poor, underdeveloped countries.

That decision by Manley triggered early general elections which Mr Seaga's Jamaica Labor Party (JLP) won with a huge 51-9 majority last October.

Since then the government has been negotiating with the IMF for new credits to cover the bulk of what Mr Seaga said will be a US 752 million dollar gap in the foreign exchange budget for fiscal 81-82. The budget is expected to be presented to Parliament early next month.

"We are at this point about to conclude the IMF agreement and will in the next 2 weeks be in a position to bring to the house the agreement for debate," the prime minister told Parliament.

he said that his administration was also now winding up discussions with aid donor countries in respect to their contributions to supplement the IMF agreement.

Talks were also taking place, he said, with a group of countries known as the friends of Jamaica for additonal financing they intended to make available to the island.

This group, which works within the Caribbean Group for Cooperation in Economic Development--CGCED--(the Western group coordinating economic assistance to the region) last week pledged US 351 million dollars in support to Jamaica during the forthcoming fiscal year, starting April 1.

They had said that they would in the next few months review the possibility of providing special balance of payments assistance to the island.

Countries which did not make pledges at last week's Kingston meeting would do so during the full CGCED session, planned for Washington in June, the prime minister said.

He also disclosed that a program has been worked out for Jamaican officials to visit a number of Western banks to discuss refinancing loans to Jamaica.

Printing of More Currency

FL182110 Bridgetown CANA in English 2023 GMT 18 Mar 81

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, 18 Mar (CANA)--Financially troubled Jamaica will have to print upward of 300 million (J) (1 J dollar; 56 cents US) of unbacked money to finance its huge 350.5 million dollars deficit for the 1980-81 fiscal year which closes at month-end, Prime Minister Edward Seaga announced in Parliament. Mr Seaga, who also holds the finance portfolio, was debating 391 million dollars (J) in supplementary spending that his 5-month old government has placed before the House.

The additional spending has brought the 1980-81 budget, originaly presented by the former Michael Manley government, to 2,465.7 million dollars, of which 1,550.05 was on the re-current side and 915.65 million was for capital spending.

But with only 1,275 million dollars generated through government revenues, Mr Seaga said, a financing gap of 1,190 million dollars remained. This deficit was being covered in part by 817 million dollars in loans and grants, leaving a residual gap of 373 million, the prime minister said. He explained, however, after deductions from statutory bodies had been made for various statutory funds, the net resource gap was 350.5 million dollars, Mr Seaga added.

"It is that net resource gap which the government must turn to derive funds from the Bank of Jamaica," he said. "This being the only source after all commercial institutions have been exhausted, the gap remained to be close by the way of printing money at the Bank of Jamaica, and the issue of unbacked money by the Bank of Jamaica." But he said after taking out recurrent expenditure for the rest of the year there was still 150 million dollars and 12 accounting days with which to do so, thus requiring an expenditure of more than 10 million dollars a day.

The same obtained for the capital side of the budget, where spending would have to be at the rate of 2 million dollars a day. However, Jamaica has never been able to achieve this level of expenditure, so it was unlikely the resource gap would be filled, Mr Seaga said. From his estimates, the Bank of Jamaica, would therefore have to print just over 300 million dollars.

Mr Seaga lamented having to print unbacked money saying that it was the bane of the former administration, and was a major fuel for inflation. His administration, he said, intended to curb the huge deficits in the budget, and when it presents its fiscal program to Parliament next month, financing by the Bank of Jamaica would not be beyond 50 million dollars.

The prime minister said that in the excessive spending by the Manley government, recurrent outlay was an average 28 percent of the gross domestic product while the revenue was 24 percent. Ths four percent difference was financed mainly by borrowings, which meant that Jamaica was now spending a whopping 64 percent of all cash foreign exchange earnings on debt servicing.

GOVERNMENT TO ERADICATE ILLEGAL AIRSTRIPS

FL172304 Bridgetown CANA in English 2258 GMT 17 Mar 81

[Excerpts] Kingston, Jamaica, 17 Mar (CANA)--Two Americans were killed here Sunday when a light aircraft, believed to have been loaded with marijuana, crashed shortly after take-off from an illegal airstrip in the western parish of St James, the police said.

There are numerous illegal landing strips in Jamaica which are used by aircraft, coming mainly out of Florida, to smuggle ganja into the United States.

And in the wake of Sunday's crash, National Security Minister Winston Spaulding has announced that the government was now embarking on a major drive to eradicate the illegal landing strips.

In a statement the minister said that the airstrips posed serious threats to Jamaica's internal security and defense.

They had, he said, "facilitated various kinds of criminal activities, involving firearms, ammunition, drugs, currency and the illegal transportation of persons into and out of the island."

The work of the security forces to curb the inflow of weapons could not be successful if the airstrips continued to flourish, he said,

Said the minister: "The difficulties faced in the fight against terrorism, subversion and gunmanship would continue to increase to even greater levels. The extent to which sabateurs can come in and out of the island or wanted persons taken out is limitless while these illegal activities flourish".

While "every legitimate power and authority" would be used to curb the illegal air traffic, the minister said, new legislation was being formulated to deal with the problem.

He did not indicate what powers the new laws would give to the security forces.

SIR EGERTON R. RICHARDSON DESIGNATED UN AMBASSADOR

FL172054 Bridgetown CANA in English 2045 GMT 17 Mar 81

[Text] United Ntions, 17 Mar (CANA-REUTER)--Sir Egerton Rudolf Richardson, who first represented Jamaica at the U.N. when it joined the world organization in 1962, today began another tour of duty in the same post by presenting his credentials to Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim.

From 1967 to 1969 he was ambassador to Mexico, being appointed concurrently ambassador to the United States and to the Organization of American States.

In 1972 he was adviser on international affairs and the following year became permanent secretary of the Ministry of Public Service.

Born in St Catherine, Jamaica, in 1912, Sir Egerton was educated at Oxford and is a certified public accountant by training.